BUSINESS / B1

ADB raises growth forecast for RP; cites robust growth in exports, farm output

WORLD / A20

Five years after 9/11, US still not safe, says Bush

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House hits Senate for Cha-cha snub

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The NPA that isn't on the military's wanted list

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, September 7, 2006 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 271 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Airline finds bomb joke no laughing matter

By Nikko Dizon

JOKERS BEWARE. WHEN IT COMES TO BOMB jokes, aviation security personnel are not laughing.

Bacolod-bound passenger Cartagena Viesto learned this yesterday when she was yanked off an early morning flight and held for questioning by aviation security officers after she "joked"

AIRLINE/ A15

NAPASAYAW SIGURO YUN SA TUWA!

Woman banker wins back dancing millions

HONG KONG—A WOMAN BANKER, who paid a Latin dance champion and her husband an advance of HK$62 million (US$8 million) for salsa lessons, got her money back on Wednesday after winning her lawsuit against the couple who insulted her in public.

Mimi Monica Wong, the 61-year-old head of HSBC's private banking business in Asia, said in her lawsuit that flamboyant Italian dance instructor Mirko Saccani had called her a "lazy cow" and told her, "Move your arse," in front of business clients and friends.

The daughter of a shipping magnate, Wong had agreed to pay a total of HK$120 million (US$15.4 million) to Saccani, 31, and his wife, 14-time world champion Briton Gaynor Fairweather, for eight years of unlimited private lessons as well as training sessions for dance contests.

After putting down a HK$62-million deposit, Wong said her relationship with the couple turned sour when Saccani "humiliated and embarrassed" her during a practice session in August 2004 at the jampacked Li Hua restaurant—the center of Hong Kong's ballroom dancing scene.

Other dance instructors at the session testified in court that they also

WOMAN BANKER/ A5

Palace: File raps vs terror expert

FIGHTING MARINES
Marines carry the casket of a fallen comrade after a Mass at a naval station chapel in Zamboanga City Wednesday. Six Philippine Marines and nearly 40 Moro rebels were killed in heavy fighting between government forces and extremists on Jolo Island on Monday. *(See story on Page A3.)* REUTERS

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SAYING THE EXPERIMENT was not officially sanctioned, Malacañang wants criminal charges brought against the security expert who tested the country's airport security system by sneaking bomb materials into a commercial aircraft.

"We cannot look at this at a very cavalier manner because it created so much alarm," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said in a news briefing yesterday.

"It has also tarnished the Philippines' security setup to the international community that there is one person who slipped through airport security. We are taking this seriously, nobody should play around with our security measures," Ermita said.

Ermita said that Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, President Macapagal-Arroyo's consultant on antiterrorism, had identified as Samson Macariola the man who

PALACE/ A15

2 El Nido resorts make it to Conde Nast 'Green List'

By Blanche S. Rivera

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION EFforts of two island resorts in Palawan have landed the Philippines on the "Green List" of an international travel magazine touted to be the world's best guide for tourists.

Miniloc Island Resort and Lagen Island Resort in El Nido town in northern Palawan are among this year's 12 best and most environment-friendly resorts in the world, according to Conde Nast Traveler, which published the Green List in its September issue.

The other tourist destinations cited are in Antarctica, South Africa, Italy, Indonesia, Honduras and the United States.

"It's very important to be included in this list … It's a validation of our triple bottom-line approach (environmental bottom line, corporate social responsibility, financial bottom line) and a culmination of all our efforts," Marigo Laririt, environment manager of the El Nido resorts, said.

The 12 best green destinations were chosen from among 80 resorts and tour operators who submitted their profiles to

2 EL NIDO/ A9

ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY destination. A tourist on a boat photographs the entrance to the "Cathedral," a giant cave in El Nido, Palawan. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

JOBS-SKILLS MISMATCH

Firms set up training centers to plug skills loss

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

(Last of three-part series)

NOT ALL WELDERS ARE CREATED equal. Specialty ship builder FBMA Marine knows this only too well.

It takes three years of training at an average cost of $5,000 before a worker can wield a blowtorch in much the same fashion as Michaelangelo did with his hammer and chisel.

Each product is like, well, a work of art.

Imagine seamlessly welding aluminum, a metal that easily melts, or joining steel plates of a ship so its hull will hold in the high seas.

For graduates of the training center set up by the Aboitiz group of companies in Balanban, Cebu, doing this type of job is a cakewalk.

So, when they're done at the center, they have a job waiting for them in the Philippines or abroad.

There's a great demand for workers with skills and experience in building special vessels, such as high-speed

FIRMS SET UP/ A8

It took 28 years, but this tech-voc grad got his MBA

By Julie M. Aurelio

RODEL CARIAGA USED TO BIKE FOR 45 minutes each morning—not as an exercise regimen, but to fulfill his dream of finishing school.

Pedaling from his parents' house in Bagong Ilog, Pasig, the reed-thin Cariaga would arrive at Manila Technician Institute in Taguig sweaty and smelly.

For three years beginning in 1978, he endured the daily trip to MTI where he was taking automotive technology.

Upon graduation, Cariaga landed a job as a mechanic at Pilipinas Maintenance Services Corps. At the same time, he enrolled in BS Mechanical Engineering at Rizal Technical Colleges in Mandaluyong City.

Cariaga worked the 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. shift at the company's plant in Libis,

IT TOOK 28/ A8

-TEAM *Report*
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

PARTNER companies in the Don Bosco automotive shop include General Motors, Ford, Toyota and Honda. ERIK ARAZAS

Roselle joins BLESS, learns how to read

By Jocelyn R. Uy

ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD ROSELLE ALARcon has bad memories of her first five years in school.

She spent three years in Grade 1 and two years in Grade 2, enduring the humiliation of being spanked by her teacher in front of her class. The reason: She could not read.

But a new world has opened up for Roselle after her training at the Basic Literacy Education and Support System (BLESS) in November 2005, a free program for the less fortunate launched by Philippine Christian School of Tomorrow (PCST) two years ago.

Now, she enjoys reading a variety of books. Her favorite is "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

Also, her parents sent Roselle back to school in June. She qualified for Grade 3.

ROSELLE/ A8

Hundreds stricken ill in villages of Guimaras, Iloilo

By Hazel P. Villa and Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—MORE THAN 700 COASTAL villagers exposed to bunker fuel oil that leaked from the sunken MT Solar I off Guimaras Island are suffering from "oil spill-related diseases or symptoms," health officials yesterday said.

Lydia Depra-Ramos, health regional director, told reporters here that the diseases and symptoms were caused by direct contact with the oil slick and inhalation of fumes from oil that reached the shores of Guimaras and Iloilo.

The tanker, chartered by Petron Corp. to carry 2.1 million liters of bunker fuel oil from Bataan to Zamboanga, sank in rough seas off Guimaras on Aug. 11. It has already spilled about a quarter of a million liters of oil, causing damage to mangroves, fishing grounds and marine sanctuaries in four towns in Guimaras and two towns in neighboring Iloilo.

"We feel the worst is behind us," said Jose Campos, Petron vice president for marketing, in a press conference yesterday in Bacolod City. He explained that at least 15 vessels were now in place to check the pollution spread and prevent the oil from reaching the shores.

Campos gave assurance that the company remained committed to addressing the problems brought about by the Solar I sinking, but could not give a specific time frame on when its cargo at the bottom of the Panay Gulf could be removed.

He said 1.8 million to 1.9 million liters of oil were still in the tanker at the bottom of the sea, with a very minimal leak.

Environmentalist Gerry Ledesma, who was also at the press conference, disputed Campos' claim, saying it would

HUNDREDS/ A9

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The western section of Luzon will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/09/06/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

House hits Senate for Cha-cha snub

By Michael Lim Ubac

HOUSE LEADERS YESTERDAY SLAMMED THE Senate for its staunch refusal to sit down with the lower chamber to approve amendments to the 1987 Constitution through a constituent assembly.

House Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin admitted the "Cha-cha cruise" was headed for a "stormy course" in view of the Senate's stand.

But Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan, vice chair of the committee on justice, said the anti-Cha-cha senators were on a "suicidal course" for ignoring the overwhelming sentiment of the people to shift to a parliamentary system.

Both lawmakers dared senators to challenge before the Supreme Court House Resolution No. 1230 seeking to convene the whole Congress into a constituent assembly (Con-Ass).

The plenary is expected to adopt soon the resolution with a package of amendments after 204 House members committed to support it, said House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles.

Speaker Jose de Venecia has maintained that the House would push Cha-cha with or without the Senate's participation.

On Tuesday, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. warned the House that it was "going on a suicidal course" by insisting it could amend the Constitution all by itself.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said the Senate was standing by its March 21 resolution stating that any amendments to the 1987 Constitution should be approved by both chambers voting separately.

Salapuddin, however, said the House bid for constituent assembly as a Cha-cha mode had constitutional basis and intended to involve senators in the process.

In Malacañang, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita expressed confidence that either the people's initiative or the constituent assembly would eventually succeed.

"Given that out of the three means of amending the Constitution (the third mode is to establish a constitutional convention) and the two tracks are already in, we're quite confident that maybe one of them will succeed," Ermita told reporters.

The Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), one of the groups pushing for Charter change said it welcomed opposition to its petition before the Supreme Court.

Lawyer Alberto Arga, legal counsel of Ulap, said the petition of One Voice to dismiss the people's initiative to change the Charter would allow the high court to settle the issue once and for all.

Arga said the high court had already set oral arguments on Ulap's petition for Sept. 26.

"We welcome the development. It gives us a chance to present our side," he said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Alcuin Papa*

Senators banking on SC to junk con-ass bid

By TJ Burgonio

SOME SENATORS ARE BANKING ON THE Supreme Court to address, if not junk, the unilateral move of the House of Representatives to convene Congress into a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution for a shift to parliamentary-unicameral government.

"The Senate position is that the procedure followed by the House is unconstitutional. And we will take the necessary steps to have this ultimate "battleground" on Charter change would be the high tribunal.

"Ultimately, the Supreme Court will decide on this. This is not an option. This is the only option available, nothing else. Ultimately, it will end up in the Supreme Court, he said.

A total of 22 senators unanimously passed a resolution in late March declaring that any amendment or revision of the 1987 Constitution in a constituent assembly would require the approval of both chambers, voting separately.

Also yesterday, former Sen. Vicente "Tito" Sotto advised the public to look closely not only at the proposed Constitutional amendments but also at its proponents and their motives.

Third-termers' motives

"There is a big chance the public will realize that a lot of the Charter change advocates are third-term congressmen who will be ineligible to run in 2007," Sotto said in a press statement.

"They are setting the Senate up as the villain while they hide their ulterior motives. The Senate serves precisely as the institutional check on the powers of the House of Representatives. It maintains the balance of our democracy," Sotto, the former Senate minority leader, said.

He said it was "disturbing to think that the impending constitutional crisis will be brought about by outgoing congressmen who are only after their selfish political interests of extending their stay in power."

"If the House wants to be trusted, these third-termers must inhibit themselves from voting on House Resolution 1230," he said.

Sen. Richard Gordon welcomed the House resolution, but said that senators would have no choice but to ask the high court "to correct a grave abuse of discretion" if the House insisted on its position that it could go it alone on constituent assembly.

"If the House of Representatives refuses to abide by the Constitution, decides on voting jointly to propose amendments or revision of the Constitution, and insists that they outnumber us in the Senate, then the Supreme Court would have to be called to exercise its judicial power to correct grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction on the part of the House," he said.

"The House cannot arrogate upon itself alone the constituent power of Congress to propose amendments or revision of the Constitution. Congress consists of a Senate and a House of Representatives."

Railroaded resolution

Drilon said the matter of bringing a case to the high court to question the House resolution would be eventually decided by the entire chamber.

Voting 30-7, the House committee on constitutional amendments on Tuesday approved Resolution No. 1230 seeking to convene Congress into a constituent assembly to overhaul the Charter and abolish the presidential-bicameral system.

Some members of the minority accused the committee leadership of railroading the process to speed up constitutional amendments even as they vowed to speak out against the measure during plenary debates.

Speaker Jose de Venecia had asserted that a constituent assembly was possible, without Senate participation, citing Article 17, Section 1 of the Constitution which says that upon a vote of three-fourths of all its members, Congress may propose amendments.

PREMYO SA RESIBO
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Congratulations to the September 1 draw winners!

2nd Draw
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PREMYO SA RESIBO

Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves (Center, 2nd row) awards the P1million and P100,000 checks to 7 of 15 winners of the PSR September 1 draw, at ceremonies held in the Forum Hall of the Airport Casino in Paranaque City last September 6, 2006.The lucky P1 million winners, all holding big checks, are (from extreme left) Aileen Fernandez from City of Manila, Paolo Esquivias (rep of Daisy Tioseco) from Las Pinas City and Ana Maria Maquito from Pasay City. The consolation prize winners are Rosalyn Rosal from Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya, Alfredo Calicdan from Mangaldan, Pangasinan, Ferdinand Launico from Imus, Cavite, and Dennis Palaganas from Dagupan City. The 8 other winners, who have yet to claim their checks, come from Manduae, Cebu, Iloilo City, Tacloban City, Malaybalay, Bukidnon, Legazpi City, Pasig City and San Juan. Assisting in the awarding ceremonies are (L-R, 2nd row) BIR Asst. Commissioner Aida Simborio, BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Bunag, PAGCOR RDD Officer Raul Camahalan, and Philweb President Dennis Valdes.

The next **Premyo Sa Resibo** draw will be on **October 1, 2006**, where another five P1 million and Ten P100,000 are at stake. For this draw, Official Receipts from **Aug. 1 to Sept. 30, 2006** are qualified.

On September 10, Premyo Sa Resibo will launch a daily TV game show, "Araw-araw, Premyo Sa Resibo" during which lucky texters of the day will have a chance to play and win P1 million.
Watch for it on NBN 4 everyday after the Lotto draw at 9:15 pm.

Premyo Sa Resibo Instructions :

Type-in the text message in this format:
PSR<space>TIN of establishment<asterisk>Receipt Number<asterisk>Amount
text to 9777 for single entries or
text to 9778* for multiple entries

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Joma's alibi: He was behind bars

JOSE MA. SISON, FOUNDING CHAIR of the Communist Party of the Philippines, yesterday said that he ceased to head the party in 1977 when he was captured during the Marcos dictatorship and kept in solitary confinement in a military camp.

SISON

Sison sent a statement from Utrecht, The Netherlands, to deny that he signed a document ordering the mass execution of suspected government spies and New People's Army cadres in 1984.

"How could I have signed any order for the execution of any number of suspected spies of the reactionary government in 1984 under the *nom de guerre* Amado Guerrero? I was not only under maximum security detention by the military but was in solitary confinement under severe conditions of physical deprivation and psychological torture," Sison said.

"Upon my capture by the enemy in November 1977, I ceased to be the chairman of the central committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines," he said.

The government has announced that Sison and several communist leaders would be charged in connection with the mass graves recently dug up in Leyte province. The graves allegedly contained the remains of suspected victims of a CPP purge.

Sison said it was also impossible for Luis Jalandoni, the chair of the National Democractic Front peace panel, and party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo to have cosigned any kind of order.

"In the first place, there was no such order. In the second place, they did not have any authority over the revolutionary movement in Leyte. Luis Jalandoni had been abroad as a political refugee since 1976. Satur Ocampo was in the Bicutan maximum security detention center of the military," said Sison.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita scoffed at Sison's denial as "very flimsy."

"You can expect that would be the reaction of those to be charged by the AFP," he said.

Ermita insisted that it would have been quite easy for the party leaders to have given the orders to kill.

Ermita said the military would continue to dig up the mass graves of NPA members who were killed in Southern Leyte. He said a mass grave discovered in one area contained about 300 remains, from the 67 that were initially recovered.

He said he wanted to point out the discovery of the mass graves to remind the public of the nationwide communist purge in the 1980s, and especially because the Left has accused the government of violating the rights of civilians and political activists.

"I just wanted to bring this up because the government has been attacked so much [and accused] of committing human rights violations," he said.

Ermita said President Macapagal-Arroyo would press the government's case against the communists in Europe when she attends the Asia-Europe meeting in Helsinki, Finland, on Saturday.

The President will address the accusations that her government was behind human rights violations in the country with the Asem leaders, he said.

"I am sure the President will be able to articulate satisfactorily that extra-judicial killing is never a policy of the government," he said.

Sison, who now identifies himself as the chief political consultant of the NDF in the stalled peace talks with government, said the NDF had information that psy-war experts of the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police have been tasked "to produce from time to time a collection of skeletal remains for the purpose of slander against the NPA by taking them from old abandoned cemeteries, graves of massacre victims of the AFP and PNP and mudslides from some years ago in Leyte."

"The AFP and PNP have also carried skeletal remains from place to place in order to make propaganda against the revolutionary movement and to threaten the filing of charges. But no charges are ever filed," Sison said. *Norman Bordadora and Christine Avendaño*

DIMAYUGA recuperating at the V. Luna hospital: We were outnumbered, but we held the line. JOAN BONDOC

BATTLE OF PATIKUL

Marine officer tells of bloody encounter

THEY WERE OUTNUMBERED AND wounded, but the 27 Marines who stumbled upon an Abu Sayyaf base camp in the jungles of Patikul, Sulu on Sept. 4, held the line against some 200 rebels until reinforcements arrived three hours later.

In an interview from his hospital bed at the Armed Forces Medical Center in Quezon City, 2Lt. Romulo Dimayuga, the platoon leader of the heroic Marine force, recounted how a test mission turned into the biggest battle since a renewed offensive against rebel chieftain Khaddafy Janjalani was launched last month. Six of his men died while 19 were wounded in the encounter.

The 24-year-old Dimayuga himself survived a shot in the chest (the slug exited through his abdomen). It was only his second armed encounter since he graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 2005.

Dimayuga recounted how his platoon, which belonged to the elite Marine Force Reconnaissance Battalion, came upon a camp of about 40 Abu Sayyaf rebels in barangay Tugas in Patikul around 3 a.m. last Sept. 4.

Under the cover of darkness and thick vegetation, the Marines got as close as four meters from the camp while the rebels were sleeping, he said.

Around 4 a.m. while the rebels started their morning prayer ritual, the troops positioned themselves on higher ground. Then, as the rebels were having breakfast, the ambush began.

"We hurled grenades and followed up with a heavy volume of fire. We got them," Dimayuga says in Filipino.

Unknown to the Marines, however, was that a big number of Abu Sayyaf rebels were camped nearby. Soon, they found themselves surrounded by a huge rebel force.

The rebels were only about 15 meters away. Under heavy fire, the Marines suffered casualties.

"While their number was increasing, ours was decreasing. But we were still organized," recalled Dimayuga. He ran to save one of his men, and that was when he was wounded in the chest.

"We held the line. We saw them advancing. Although we were injured, we could still aim at them," he remembered.

Finally, reinforcements arrived but they could not immediately close in because Dimayuga and his men could get caught in the crossfire.

Eventually, they broke in, and the rebels withdrew.

Marine spokesperson Lt. Col. Ariel Caculitan said it was noteworthy that the rebels never got the chance to grab the soldiers' firearms.

Dimayuga declares that he and his troops will return to Sulu after they have recovered.

Since Aug. 1, nine soldiers have been killed and 55 others wounded in encounters. The military body count lists 10 Abu Sayyaf rebels killed and seven wounded. Eight more have been captured.

Gringo aide out on bail

A RETIRED BANKER and aide of fugitive Gregorio Honasan, accused of participation in the July 2003 failed coup, walked out of the Makati City Jail yesterday after posting bail.

Ernesto Macahiya, a former executive of the Development Bank of the Philippines, was ordered released after Judge Oscar Pimentel ruled that the evidence presented by state prosecutors was not strong enough to deny him bail.

The Department of Justice filed the charges against Macahiya and six others for allegedly supporting rebel soldiers who took over the Oakwood Premier hotel in Makati on July 27, 2003.

His co-accused include former Honasan and five other members of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc., a rightist fraternity founded by Honasan.

Early last month, Pimentel dismissed the charges against two of the accused, retired colonels Virgilio Briones and Romeo Lazo, citing lack of probable cause.

Macahiya immediately drove to his house in Bay, Laguna, after his release.

He told the INQUIRER he was confident that the judge's decision to allow him to file bail for a non-bailable offense would lead to his acquittal.

He said the coup d'etat case against him would not stop him from continuing his work as PGBI spokesperson.

He said he would soon be going to the PGBI chapters around the country and consult the members about the proposed Charter change and the group's plan to run in the party-list elections in 2007.

Arroyos want Cayetano expelled from House

THE FAMILY OF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo yesterday sought the expulsion from the House of Representatives of Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano for allegedly fabricating charges that the Arroyos kept a secret bank account in Germany.

First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo—joined by his son, Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, and his brother, Rep. Ignacio Arroyo—filed a complaint seeking the ouster of Cayetano for "malicious and defamatory accusations against our family."

The three faced the media before filing the complaint of "improper conduct" against Cayetano before the House ethics committee.

The Arroyos said Cayetano "maliciously insinuated and intimated that our family laundered 'hundreds of millions of dollars.'"

Mike Arroyo last week filed 13 libel complaints against Cayetano after producing a certification from the HypoVereinsbank in Munich that he did not have any account with them. He sought P30 million in damages from Cayetano.

Cayetano first mentioned the alleged account during a debate last month on an impeachment complaint against the President.

"He is not worthy to be a member of this House. He is not a 'gentleman' by any measure. He must not be allowed to bring the House down with him," the Arroyo men said in their 22-page complaint.

"The only honorable thing he can do is to resign," they said. *Michael Ubac and AP*

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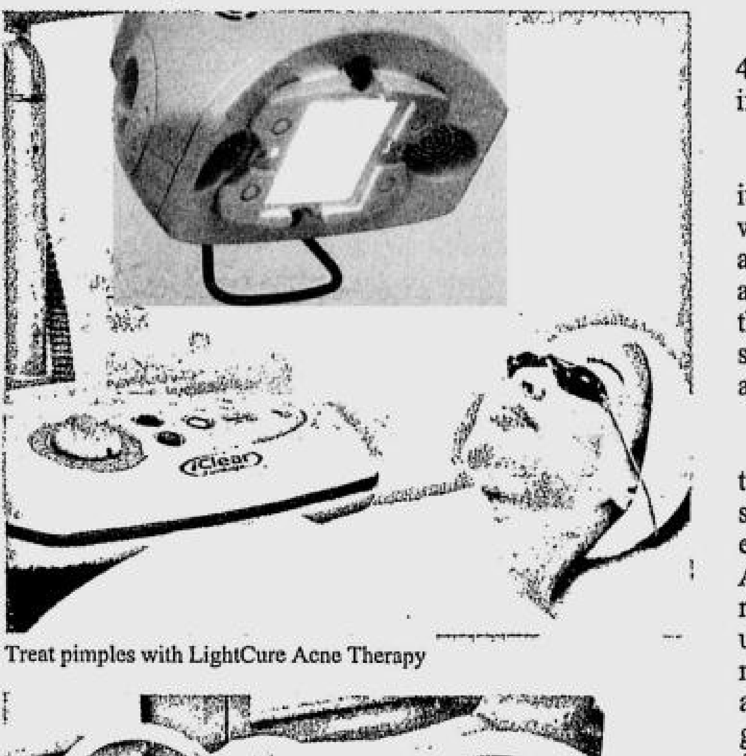

Treat pimples with LightCure Acne Therapy

Erase acne scars with Diamond Peel

Your graduation picture. Your wedding. Your 40th birthday party. All these would have been perfect if not for such an untimely annoyance: acne.

Often it occurs on the day when you least want it on your face, like if you are meeting someone you want to impress or will be part of an event involving a lot of pictures getting taken. Acne can start as early as your adolescent years, and can follow you right through adulthood. Whether you're 16, 29 or 40, acne still has the same effect on you: lowered self-esteem, a bad mood and most likely, a self-conscious behavior.

Facial Care Centre offers a 3-step surefire way to permanently combat any type of acne. The first step involves treating the existing acne. In order to eliminate existing pimples and acne cysts, **LightCure Acne Therapy** is a highly effective treatment. It is recommended for mild, moderate and heavy acne. It uses the emission of exact wavelengths of light at the most effective intensity for complete destruction of acne bacteria. LightCure works by targeting sebaceous glands where there are abnormal bacteria responsible for the inflammation of acne lesions. The high-intensity light emitted by LightCure starts a chemical reaction that destroys the acne bacteria without any damage to the normal skin. LightCure is painless, and works faster than conventional treatments like oral antibiotics, hormonal pills, retinoids and injections.

Once the acne has been eliminated, the second step of erasing acne scars follows. Through the **Diamond Peel**, acne scars and other blemishes can be successfully removed. With the use of a diamond dust-coated wand, the skin is exfoliated by the combined action of diamond chips and the cleaning action of a vacuum. As a result, the dead cells in the topmost layer of the skin are removed, leaving a clearer new layer that is smoother and even. Unlike other skin peeling methods, the Diamond Peel requires no downtime and no anesthesia is necessary in performing the procedure. It is non-surgical, non-invasive, extremely safe and effective.

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The final step is the maintenance of the new skin and the prevention of future acne breakouts. The **Deep Anti-Bacterial Facial** is a highly intensive facial that uses the finest natural ingredients to avoid the onset of new acne. It also involves a mild exfoliating method to rid the skin of impurities that are not easily removed by superficial washing and cleansing. Regular treatments ensure smooth, clear, acne-free skin.

With technologically advanced treatments, Facial Care Centre ensures effective acne remedies no matter how severe the case is. The treatments not only eliminate pimples and other blemishes, but will give a healthier skin complexion as well. End your battle with acne today, no matter what age you are. **Call Facial Care for a free consultation at 892-SKIN (7546).**

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NOTICE OF MEETING

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BY-LAWS

TO ALL REGULAR MEMBERS:

In accordance with the provisions of Article IV, Sections 2 and 3 of the By-laws of the Armed Forces and Police Savings & Loan Association, Inc. (AFPSLAI), notice is hereby given that a Special Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 07, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. at Tejeros Hall, AFP Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC) Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City to vote on the proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws as herein reproduced.

We urge you to attend the Special Membership Meeting. Proxy forms are available in all our Branches and Extension Offices for those who will not be able to attend the meeting.

Excerpts from the minutes of the Special Board Meeting wherein the proposed amendments thereto were discussed and deliberated by the Board of Trustees are posted in the AFPSLAI website at www.afpslai.com.ph.

ATTY SAMUEL B PADILLA
Corporate Secretary

a) Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation on the Secondary Purposes of the Association, to wit:

EXISTING	**PROPOSED**
B1. Facilitate resources generation activities of members so as to afford them access to materials, financial as well as technical resources of the association;	***B1. To provide products and services that would be responsive to members' financial needs and would help enhance members' income;(a)***
B2. Facilitate and conduct education, training so as to provide the members with technical and managerial skills;	***B2. To conduct and support training activities that would provide members the necessary skills to enable them to engage in other productive activities;(a)***
B3. Develop and implement socio-economic projects as forms of extension services where access to basic socio-economic services and opportunities are concretized;	***B3. To engage in socially responsive projects;(a)***
B4. Facilitate or conduct research and documentation activities on existing resources, utilization and management for maximum benefit of the members;	Delete
B5. To create scholarships for qualified dependents of the members;	**B4.** To ***provide*** scholarships for qualified dependents of the members; ***(re-numbered)***
B6. To assist members who are victims of natural calamities such as typhoon, fire, flood and the like;	**B5.** To assist members who are victims of natural calamities such as typhoon, fire, flood and the like; ***(re-numbered)***
B7. Generally, to exercise and execute all the powers, prerogatives and privileges inherent in and granted to corporations and to such savings and loan associations, primarily for the benefit and welfare of its members;	**B6.** To exercise and execute all the powers, prerogatives and privileges inherent in and granted to corporations and to such savings and loan associations, primarily for the benefit and welfare of its members; ***(Delete "Generally" and re-numbered)***

b) Amendments to the By-laws, to wit:

ARTICLE/SECTION	**EXISTING PROVISION**	**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**
Article I, Section 2.B.2	Facilitate and conduct education, training so as to provide the members with technical and managerial skills;	Article I, Section 2.B.2 ***To conduct and support training activities that would provide members the necessary skills to enable them to engage in other productive activities; (a)***
Article II, Section 1.2	Associate Members – Associate members shall have the same privileges and responsibilities as the Regular members but can neither vote nor be voted upon. These are the following: a) Parents of the unmarried regular members and the legitimate spouse and legitimate children eighteen years of age and over of the regular married members. b) Non-stock and non-profit organizations/associations, majority members are regular members of AFPSLAI and the purposes for which they are created are for the welfare and benefit of the fraternal members and not for business or commercial purpose which are already members of the Association as of May 21, 2003. c) In case of marriage and/or death of unmarried regular members and the death of the married regular members, the above associate members shall continue their membership; in the case of the above organizations/associations, it shall cease membership upon its dissolution. d) Philippine Veterans Administration Office (PVAO) pensioners who are receiving monthly pension from the PVAO. e) Cadets of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) and Philippine Air Force Flying School.	Article II, Section 1.2 – Associate Members Section 1.2.1 ***Associate members shall consist of the following:*** a) The legitimate spouse, and legitimate children of the regular married members ***who are at least twenty-one years of age and are gainfully employed. In case of death of the regular married members, the above associate members shall continue their membership. (a)*** ***b)*** Philippine Veterans Administration Office (PVAO) pensioners who are receiving monthly pension from the PVAO. ***(re-numbered)*** ***c)*** Cadets of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) and Philippine Air Force Flying School, ***Officers Candidate School (OCS),and Naval Officers Candidate Course (NOCC). (a) (re-numbered)*** ***d)*** Non-stock and non-profit organizations/associations, the majority of which are regular members of AFPSLAI and the purposes for which they are created are for the welfare and benefit of the fraternal members and not for business or commercial purpose which are already members of the Association as of May 21, 2003. ***These organizations/ associations shall cease membership upon its dissolution. (re-arranged and re-numbered)*** ***Section 1.2.2 Associate members shall be accorded corresponding privileges and responsibilities as may be determined by the Board of Trustees.(n)*** ***Section 1.2.3 Associate members can neither vote nor be voted upon.*** ***(re-arranged and re-numbered)***
Article IV, Section 1	Annual meetings of the members for the election of Trustees and for other business which may be deemed necessary, shall be held on the last Saturday of April of each year at the principal office of the Association or at a place in Quezon City that may be designated by the Board of Trustees.	Annual meetings of the members for the election of Trustees and for other business which may be deemed necessary, shall be held on the last Saturday of ***MAY*** of each year at the principal office of the Association or at a place in Quezon City that may be designated by the Board of Trustees. ***(a)***
Article V, Section 2	Election and Term of Office - The Trustees who shall be elected at the annual meeting either by the members present to include proxies, or by secret ballot to be conducted by a Committee on Election of 3 members, shall hold office for a term of one year until their successors shall have been duly elected and qualified.	Election and Term of Office - The Trustees who shall be elected at the annual meeting either by the members present to include proxies, or by secret ballot to be conducted by a Committee on Election of 3 members, shall hold office for a term of one year until their successors shall have been duly elected and qualified. ***Any regular member shall only be elected a maximum of five cumulative terms as a Trustee.(n)***
Article V, Section 13f	f) To delegate to the Chairman of the Board, Vice-Chairman, President or any other officer or to any committee, any of its powers whenever deemed necessary for the best interest of the Association	***f) to regulate the amount of capital contribution of regular and associate members as it deems necessary for the best interest of the Association.(n)***

Other proposed amendments

- . Article V, Section 13(c), Article VII, Section 3(d), Article XIV, Section 1 and Article XV, Section 1, amending "Central Bank of the Philippines" to "Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas";
- Article XVI, Section 1 para 2, inserting "Two-thirds" before the number "2/3";
- Article V, Section 13 (h) and Section 13 (i) proposed to be deleted
- Article V, Section 13 (f) and Section 13 (g) re-numbered to Article V, Section 13(g) and Section 13(h).

Woman banker wins back dancing millions

From page A1

heard Saccani tell Wong: "If you do it again, Monica, I'll smash your head against the wall." They added that Saccani also threatened to throw his student out of the window.

In his testimony, Saccani said his use of strong language and screams at Wong were merely a motivational technique to get his student to do better.

Claiming she suffered an emotional breakdown from the insults, Wong sued the couple and demanded that they return her deposit. The couple, however, countered with a lawsuit demanding that Wong pay the rest of the money she had promised them.

Court ruling

In a written judgment, Deputy High Court Judge Gerard Muttrie ruled in favor of Wong.

Muttrie ordered Saccani and Fairweather to pay Wong HK$62 million plus interest at 1 percent above the prime rate from the time of judgment until the money is actually paid.

"Overall, I find the plaintiff's (Wong's) version of events much more believable than that given by the defendants," the judge wrote.

"I do not see why, even if (Wong) was in default, she should not have her money back, subject to any claim for damages which the defendants might have ... They took her money, for services in the future which she would never take up."

According to the judgment, Wong had originally paid the couple just HK$1,000 (US$129) for hourly lessons, but her interest increased almost to the point of "obsession," leading to the multimillion-dollar deal.

Court papers said Wong had tried to stop the couple from teaching other students, while the pair also pushed her to pay more for their services.

In her testimony, Wong said she took dancing lessons because she had been looking for "the last chance of glory" in life before she became too old.

"It is common enough for any professional person to act, in private life, in a way which one would not expect him to act professionally," Muttrie wrote.

"What is clear in this case is that Ms Wong was affected very much by her obsession for dancing."

Pleased with ruling

In a statement issued by her lawyer, Wong said she was "pleased" with the ruling.

During the trial, Wong referred to her relationship with the couple as "an affair."

The judgment said Wong's relationship had initially been good with Fairweather who had called her wealthy student "my little project, my love and my heart."

Wong won the "Top Gold Lady" prize at a 2003 Los Angeles competition with Saccani as her partner, as well as first prize in the over-50 age group at another LA contest.

Saccani, who deposited Wong's advance payment in a Swiss bank account and later bought a Ferrari, said the multimillion-dollar deal reflected his special relationship with Wong.

"I didn't see her as my student. We were partners," he said.

After the dancing row in 2004, however, Saccani said he did not want to see Wong again.

Tensions at the practice session had reportedly been high because the attention of about 50 dancers and their instructors was focused on Donnie Burns, 15-time world champion and Fairweather's former lover.

Wong's lawyer had alleged Saccani was jealous and angry, while Saccani's lawyer said it was Wong who was upset about being upstaged.

Public captivated

The case captivated the public in this prosperous southern Chinese territory, where the salsa craze took off in the late 1990s, and shone a light on the lavish lives of the world's top dance instructors.

The case also highlighted the ostentatious lifestyle of the super-rich in Hong Kong, China's wealthiest city.

The territory is known for its tycoons and occasionally eccentric millionaires, including Kai Bong Chau and his wife Brenda, with their taste for golden toilets and for dashing around the city in a pink Rolls Royce.

Billionaire tycoon Li Ka-shing, on the other hand, has a reputation for a more austere lifestyle and is known to wear cheap shoes and plastic watches.

The city's ability to generate vast wealth from its origins as a fishing village, has transformed it into a financial and banking hub. Banking giant HSBC, for whom Wong works as the head of private wealth management, is the city's largest bank. *Reports from AFP and Reuters*

BANKER Mimi Monica Wong, 61, leaves her apartment to speak to the press in Hong Kong on Wednesday. AFP

LATIN dance teachers Gaynor Fairweather and Mirko Saccani leave a courthouse in Hong Kong in this June 21, 2006, photo. AFP

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Palace says it won't abandon Palparan

MALACAÑANG WILL NOT ABANDON the controversial Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan who is set to retire from military service next week with a communist death threat hanging over his head.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday said the government would provide security for Palparan, if the general asks for it.

But Ermita said that Palparan, being a military officer, knew the "hazards of the trade" and what he must do to protect himself from the "real" threats against his life.

The communist New People's Army has vowed to kill Palparan, whose draconian anti-insurgency campaigns have given him some notoriety, for his alleged crimes against the people.

An NPA commander said the other day the general should consider himself a "dead man walking" after he retires on Sept. 11.

Ermita said if Palparan thought he needed protection from the government, he would ask for it. But Palparan has not made any such request, he said.

"*Pero lalaki naman siya. Di naman magiging heneral yan kung hindi tunay na lalaki yan e* (But he's a man. He wouldn't have become a general if he is not a real man)," said the executive secretary.

"But you can be sure the authorities will not abandon him because we know there is a threat against his life," Ermita told reporters at his weekly Palace briefing.

And if the government were to provide Palparan with a special security, "we will not announce it," he said.

Ermita said he considers Palparan, the outgoing commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, to have been a very effective military field commander.

"He would not have reached the rank of 7th division commander if he did not perform well in his previous assignments," he said.

He said the general was able to do the job of fighting communism in Mindoro Occidental, Mindanao, the Visayas and in what would be his last assignment, Central Luzon.

On a lighter note, Ermita said it was a running joke among Cabinet secretaries that Palparan might just be "perfect" for salvaging operations in Guimaras island considering the inexplicable rise in the number of unsolved killings of militants wherever the so-called "butcher" has been deployed.

The Solar 1, the oil tanker responsible for the worst oil spill in the nation's history, is lying on the sea floor off Guimaras with about 1.5 million liters more of its oil cargo threatening to leak out. Authorities still have to decide on a plan to "salvage" the ship and prevent a more catastrophic spill.

"We talk about this during some of our huddles and we always get a laugh out of this," said Ermita, noting how the word "salvage" has been corrupted in the Philippines to mean summary executions.

Palparan was one of the few individuals praised by the President during her recent state of the nation address.

Ermita explained the appointments of retired national police chief Arturo Lomibao as administrator of the National Irrigation Administration and Cerge Remonde, chief of the Government Mass Media Group, as chair of the National Anti-Poverty Commission.

He said that Lomibao's military background could serve the NIA's needs well, particularly in ensuring the security of its facilities against terrorist attacks.

In Remonde's case, Ermita said the seasoned broadcaster would have to give up his post as head of the three state-run television stations and one radio station when he takes over from Datu Zamzamin L. Ampatuan who has been appointed to head the revived Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA).

The other appointments announced by Ermita were those of Thaddeus Venturanza (commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission), Habib Tupay T. Loong (presidential assistant for Muslim concerns), and SPDA board members Habub Mudjahab Hashim, Saeed A. Daof, Yusop H. Jikiri, Hadja Bainon G. Karon, and Mohammad Ali Basir Lucman. *Christine A. Avendaño and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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Appeals court threatens general with contempt

By Armand N. Nocum

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS warned Major Gen. Jovito Palparan against disobeying its order to appear in hearings relative to the disappearance of leftist militant leaders, lest he be "dealt with more severely."

In a five page-resolution to the petition of the victims' relatives for the CA to cite Palparan for contempt, the appellate court asked Palparan to heed the court's summons in its continuing hearings aimed at bringing to fore those allegedly abducted by Palparan's man.

In a resolution penned by Associate Justice Jose C. Mendoza, the court "warned that another act of disobedience to the court's order would be dealt with severely."

The court's 11th Division Chair, Elvi John Asuncion, and Associate Justice Sesinando Villon concurred with the resolution.

Palparan failed to appear in the court's hearing on Aug. 1, 7 and Aug. 15, which tackled the petition for habeas corpus filed by relatives of UP students Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeno and farmer Manuel Merino, who were reportedly abducted on June 26 in Hagonoy, Bulacan.

Palparan justified his non-appearance in the Aug. 1 hearing on the fact that he was busy leading the 18th anniversary celebration of the 7th Infantry Division.

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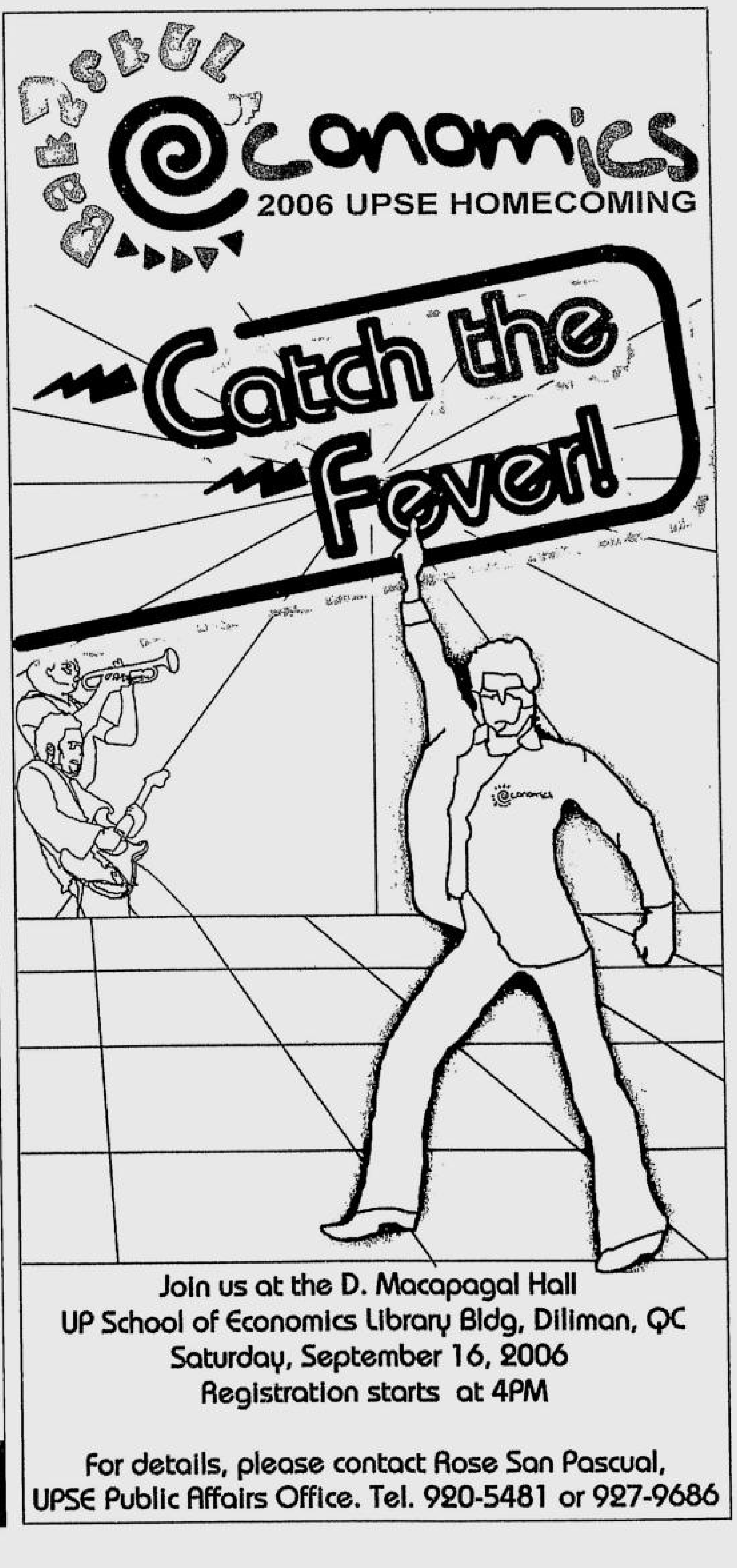

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BIR extends 'no-audit' deal for good taxpayers

TAXPAYERS CAN HEAD OFF AN audit or investigation of their income tax liabilities if they pay 30 percent more of the taxes they paid in 2004.

Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag has extended until Oct. 1 the deadline for taxpayers to avail of the No Audit Program (NAP) of the Bureau of Internal Revenue. The original deadline was July 31.

"This will also give taxpayers the opportunity to correct their tax returns and report their true income for the year 2005," said Buñag who issued Revenue Regulation 14-2006 extending the deadline.

"In this way they will not only be helping the government, they will also be helping the people who will benefit through more government services and projects," he said.

For taxpayers to qualify for the NAP, they must satisfy the following requirements:

- Income tax due or tax payment for the current taxable year must exceed the income tax payment for the base year by at least 30 percent.
- The ratio of the income tax payment to gross sales or receipts for the current taxable year must at least equal that of the base year.
- The ratio of the net value added tax (VAT), or business tax actually paid, to gross sales or receipts for the current taxable year must at least equal that of the base year.

Buñag said the tax payment should not be less than five percent for financial institutions and four percent for other percentage taxpayers, or 30 percent for sellers of goods and 50 percent for sellers of services, or the industry benchmark as determined by the BIR commissioner.

Taxpayers who paid or are paying the minimum corporate income tax can still avail of the NAP upon payment of the additional 30 percent over and above the previous payment. Taxpayers enjoying the benefit of preferential tax rates may also avail of the program.

Taxpayers subject to VAT in 2003 and to gross receipts tax in 2004 are eligible if they comply with the criteria, and the business tax actually paid in 2004 should not be less than five percent of the gross receipts.

Only taxes actually paid in cash will be considered for the program, including creditable withholding taxes which are considered cash payments.

In the case of a business that was not in operation for the whole of the base year, tax payments for the period would be annualized and serve as basis for compliance.

Taxpayers who failed to avail and qualify for the 2004 NAP can still avail of the program by complying with the requirements, provided that no final assessment notice nor a letter of notice was issued to them.

Taxpayers who reported a net loss or net operating loss carry-over are disqualified from the NAP. This includes taxpayers with no tax payable due to deductions of personal or additional exemptions.

Buñag said the NAP requirements for the 2005 tax returns were more lenient than the previous year's.

He appealed to taxpayers to pay their taxes in full to help the government deal with the fiscal crisis and enable it to deliver basic goods and services to the public.

He said that good taxpayers, especially businesses and corporations, would reap more benefits from paying the correct taxes through the improvement of the economy and greater profits for their enterprises.

Cynthia D. Balana

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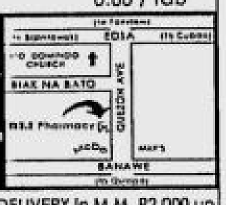

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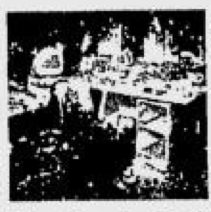

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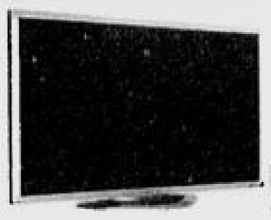

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Pagasa explains 'summer-like weather'

By Blanche S. Rivera

AFTER PREDICTING A "SUMMER-like weather" this week, the weather bureau yesterday explained that the extreme heat being felt in some areas of the country had caused the thunderstorms in the past three days.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the thunderstorms, which have triggered floods in low-lying areas of Metro Manila, were characteristic of the "summer weather" it had described.

"This is really the style of summer. It gets too hot and then you have thunderstorms in the evening or early morning but they do not last," Pagasa weather branch chief Nathaniel Cruz said in a phone interview yesterday.

He said the weather in September was similar to the weather in May when temperatures were still high but the rains were falling.

He said the thunderstorms were not caused by a strong southwest monsoon, which causes rains during the wet season, but by local heating, which forces the winds upward.

"It's only in Metro Manila that there are rains right now, but the rest of northern Luzon is dry. Notice that the rains do not cover a huge area. Either it's in Quezon City or Makati, etc.," Cruz said.

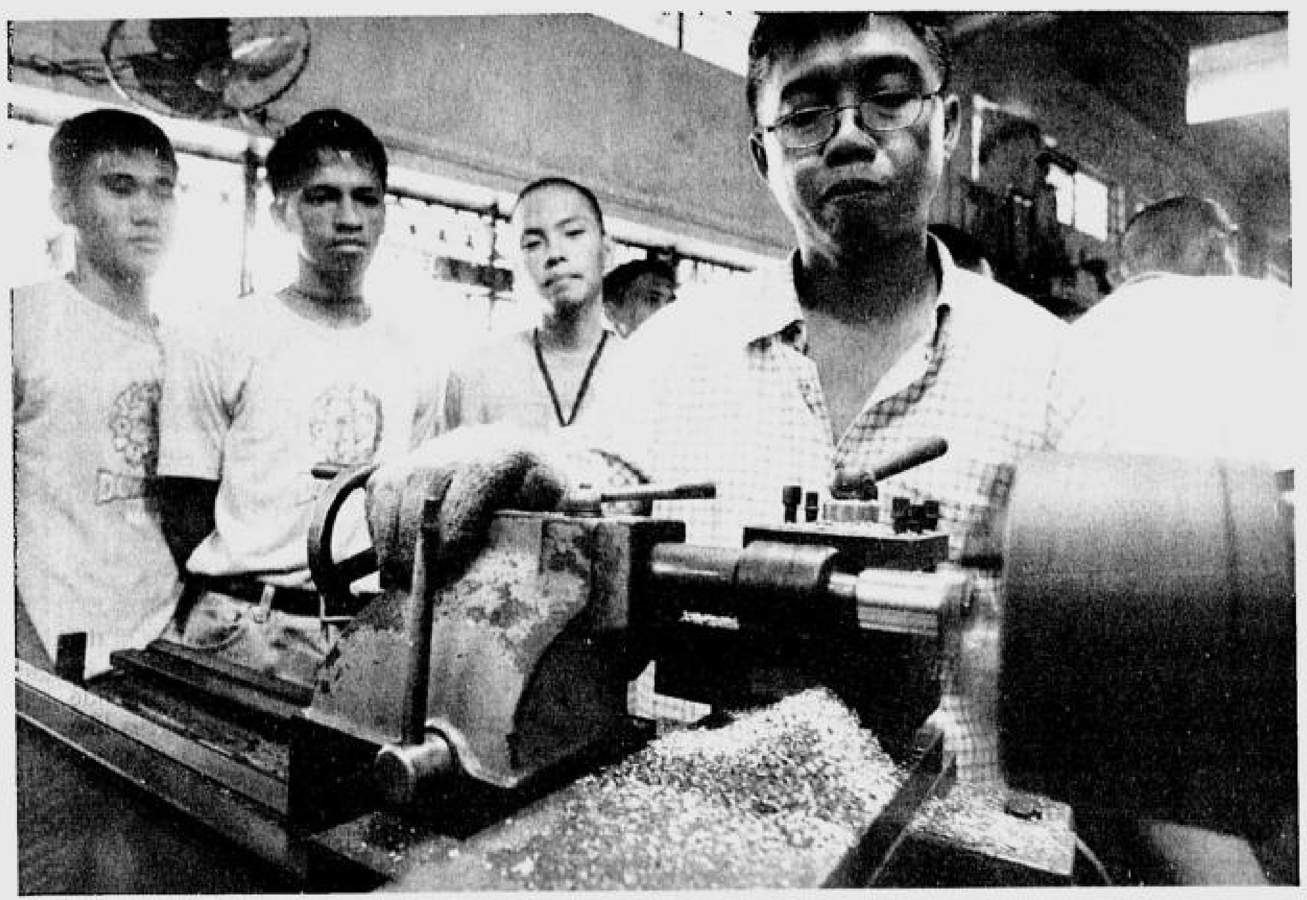
Pagasa is watching out for the development of an active low pressure area that could turn into a tropical cyclone. The rain-inducing system was still far off, in the northeastern part of Batanes and would likely affect only the province and Taiwan when it develops into a weather disturbance in the next three days.

Cruz, however, said the presence of a tropical cyclone could enhance the southwest monsoon which could cause rains in other parts of the country.

Pagasa is acquiring two Doppler radars, instruments that can measure the amount of rain contained in a cloud mass, which will be crucial in disaster prevention. The radars will be installed in Subic and Tagaytay City.

Pagasa has recently secured the nod of the Department of Science and Technology and the commitment of Malacañang for the acquisition of a third Doppler radar to be set up in Cebu.

"It takes time to set up, so expect the Doppler radars to be fully operational by the second half of next year," Cruz said.



MECHANICAL teacher Imielo Huelgas shows students proper way to use a drilling machine.

ERIK ARAZAS

BEING computer savvy is one of the things learned at the Don Bosco Technical School in Makati.

ERIK ARAZAS

Firms set up own training centers to ease shock of migration

From page A1

catamarans, passenger ferries and bulk carriers.

In fact, many seasoned welders cannot resist the temptation of lucrative job offers overseas and leave.

Plugging attrition rate

In FBMA, the Cebu-based specialty unit of the Aboitiz group, the attrition rate had been high, mainly due to competition abroad. This had led to production delays and late deliveries.

So the Aboitiz group set up its own training center to plug the worker hemorrhage and provide a steady supply of skilled shipbuilding labor.

Shipbuilding is just one field where there's a lot of job openings but not enough workers to fill the vacancy—a classic illustration of what educators and company honchos describe as a "jobs-skills mismatch."

The "ladderized education program" that President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration set in motion this year seeks to address this mismatch by promoting technical-vocational (tech-voc) courses that will later be credited in a regular college work.

The program also attempts to soften the impact of departures for overseas jobs.

Here, the private sector is taking the lead. The Aboitiz group is an example.

Shock of migration over

"We've gotten over the shock of migration, but we realize that this is going to happen for a while. We are in a situation where we are not sure we can keep our people for long," says FBMA chair Roberto E. Aboitiz. "With the training center, we hope to ensure continuous supply of quality labor."

Aboitiz had earlier arrangements with such agencies as Don Bosco School and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority to upgrade local skills needed in shipbuilding.

The automotive industry is facing the same shortage of quality manpower.

Ramon Ventura Jr., head of Toyota Motors Philippines Foundation Inc., recalls automotive technology courses had low enrollment and vocational schools had even thought of throwing in the towel.

Ventura says schools that had plodded on had World War II vintage Willy's jeeps to tear apart and put together in rundown classrooms. But their graduates weren't up to it and couldn't land a job at Toyota.

In 1992, Toyota linked up with the better known tech-voc schools and Ford and Nissan to produce top quality mechanics. In 2003, the effort became an Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program.

Lifelong learning

"In this way, the employer becomes a lifelong learning center to help these individuals develop their full potential in order for them to assume responsibility for their own development," Ventura said.

He says Mapua Institute of Technology has signed on to grant the degree in automotive engineering. Toyota is keen on replicating the program in other schools and state universities and colleges.

"We cannot compete with companies abroad when it comes to salaries, so the only solution is to establish that pipeline of talent," Ventura said. "We believe that this program is one way of keeping that pipeline open."

Philippine Long Distance Co. has taken this concept further. PLDT is now part of the curriculum at Far Eastern University for students looking at prospects in the telecommunications firm.

"We can be chosen as a subject, where students can come to our environment and stay there for one semester," says Richard Ferrer, president of PLDT Foundation. "Graduates don't have to work with us. But we have the first crack. We know them." Student campers are paid P400 a day.

Economic blueprint

All this private initiative is fine. But Manuel V. Pangilinan, chair of PLDT and SMART Communications, says there must be a deliberate plan that will pinpoint areas requiring skills that will then have to be developed.

"We've got to have an economic blueprint that is viable, whether it is agriculture, or mining or telcos, or tourism. You have to factor in the fact that migration will always be with us. Why are we apologizing about it?" Pangilinan says.

"We have to train a hundred thousand IT engineers knowing your migration rate will be half of that. Then you know you have to fill in the pipeline ... The government's got to engage the private sector as whole with respect to what the economic blueprint is because at the end of the day, the private sector has to cooperate in that endeavor," he says.

"If it's mining, let's put the proper investment there and the people. It's like force. If people will make money, people will go there."

Roselle joins BLESS, learns how to read

From page A1

"She became more confident of herself. Before, it was hard having a conversation with her because she always kept her head down," says Roselle's BLESS reading instructor, Sheila de la Cruz.

Rowena Pakilala, BLESS director for the Philippines, says there are about 16 BLESS centers operating across the country, either through outreach ministry of churches or mission organizations.

With help from kind donors, these centers have already taught roughly 2,500 children. For every P1,000 donation, a poor child is sent to a BLESS center.

Not watched closely

Roselle was among the first batch of beneficiaries in Barangay Gulod, Novaliches, Quezon City, according to De la Cruz, who started running the BLESS center in the neighborhood in November 2005.

The BLESS program was launched after PCST, an exclusive Christian school in Parañaque City that uses the Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) system, realized that illiteracy was not only a problem among children who were too poor to go to school, but also among students attending public elementary schools.

A WHOLE new world has opened for Roselle Alarcon after attending reading lessons in a facility run by the Philippine Christian School of Tomorrow.

RAFFY LERMA

"In conventional schools, students are not really closely monitored by their teachers because they are too many in one classroom," says Franz Garcia, BLESS fundraising officer.

On the other hand, the mastery-based and individualized ACE system allows students to advance at their own pace through the scope and sequenced material given to them, says Garcia.

Under the system, students not only finish a year's worth of work but also advance to the next level of material within the same school year.

The condensed version of the ACE system's ABCs reading program is what the BLESS program has adopted in teaching children to read in a span of 14 to 16 weeks.

Simple modules

"We teach children to identify and correctly write the letters of the alphabet, to articulate the sound of each letters and blend the sounds to form words. We do this one letter at a time and we cannot move on to another lesson unless they mastered the first," De la Cruz says.

In the latter part of the training, students are taught simple mathematics concepts, provided with reading exercises through the Science and Social Students modules or Packets of Accelerated Christian Education. Character building and Bible stories are also incorporated as they make progress.

"It really brings joy to my heart seeing these poor children learn to read. It somehow comforts me that even if their parents could not send them to school they could still go on with their lives because they know how to read," says De la Cruz.

For Roselle, there's nothing like being back in school and living like any other normal student.

"No one will spank me anymore because now I can read," she says.

It took 28 years, but this tech-voc grad got his MBA

From page A1

Quezon City, repairing passenger buses. After work, he would wash off the grime and grease and dash to his 6 p.m. class.

A refresher course

Having studied in a technical-vocational (tech-voc) school turned out to be an advantage. "It was like I was taking a refresher course when I enrolled in college," Cariaga laughs.

"I would credit half of what I am now to my vocational education. Without it, I wouldn't be here," he says.

At tech-voc school, he was trained to think like an engineer, learning not only the skills, but also the discipline and the right work attitude.

"Everything should be perfect. I was taught to strive for the best results and not be satisfied with the mediocre," Cariaga said.

Tinkering with engines taught him to persevere and to pay attention to every detail. Every last bolt must be in place, every screw tightened just right.

Juggling work, studies

It's the same work ethic Cariaga adopted when he juggled work and his college degree. It took him seven years to finish his degree. By the time he got it, he had a wife and three daughters.

Cariaga took the October 1988 board exams and passed with an 84.8-percent rating.

A year later, he packed his bags for Taiwan to work for Romeo Motor International Co. Ltd., leaving his family behind at his parents' house. There, he worked for three years as an engineer in the company that was the sole distributor of Alfa Romeo sports cars.

Upon returning in 1991, he wanted to reestablish himself but not just a mechanical engineer. "I didn't know how to sell my skills and to make money from it," Cariaga recalls.

He ran into a former boss, Jacinto Mapagu, who then offered him a job at a new company, Koyo Trading Phils. Inc. Mapagu taught him the business side of things—"foreign exchange, marketing, documentation, customs and tax clearances."

Steady climb

From there, it was a steady climb from supervisory to managerial positions at Pilipinas Hino, Avis, Merit Stainless Steel and Asea Brown Boveri.

Cariaga has not stopped studying since he won a Meralco Foundation Scholarship. He enrolled in the MBA program at Rizal Technological University in 2001.

He finished his thesis in April 2006, nearly 28 years after he first enrolled in a vocational course.

Cariaga has come a long way. He has also stopped pedaling and is now being driven around in a company service car.

GMA assures no whitewash in oil spill probe

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas
and Leila B. Salaverria
in Manila

NUEVA VALENCIA, GUIMARAS—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday directed the Department of Justice to ensure an airtight case against those found liable for the massive oil spill that hit this island.

"As we clean up the coasts and coves of Guimaras with all the intensity we can muster, we will make sure that there will be no whitewash in ferreting out the truth behind the accident," the President said at the opening of a meeting of the National Disaster Coordinating Council and Task Force Guimaras at the Raymen beach resort.

"No one culpable in this national tragedy shall walk away scot free," she said.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said in a press briefing that Petron Corp. officials could be charged with civil liabilities for the oil spill, considered the worst in the country's history.

He said Petron was aware that the captain of the MT Solar 1, Capt. Norberto Aguro, had three previous violations. Aguro was even ordered replaced but instead an auxiliary captain was assigned to the tanker, he said.

Petron chair Nicasio Alcantara said the company was leaving the findings to the investigating bodies and said it would cooperate in the probe.

A DOJ task force formed to look into the criminal liabilities of parties behind the sinking and oil spill has confirmed findings of the Special Board of Marine Inquiry (SBMI), which is conducting a parallel investigation.

Tanker hole, dent

In Manila, the SBMI said it would look into the possibility that another vessel caused the hole and dent on the sunken tanker, as revealed by video footage taken by a remote-operated vehicle of the Japanese survey ship Shinsei Maru.

Board member Commodore Benjamin Mata, who chaired yesterday's hearing, told reporters that the hole and dent did not seem to have been caused by waves, especially since the classification society that inspected the Solar I had attested that the tanker's structure was sound.

"From what we heard, nobody has said the tanker collided with something or they had an experience that could have caused the hole to form. But from what we saw of the hole, it was a big one that could not have formed because of waves hitting the ship. If the tanker was hit by waves, a triangular hole would not have been formed," he said.

SBMI chair Rear Admiral Danilo Abinoja had earlier said it was unlikely that the hole caused the tanker to sink because it was on the port side. The tanker listed on its starboard side before it sank, he said.

Mata said the board would determine if another vessel could have come near the tanker and collided with it because of the rough seas.

Surveyors testify

"This is all theory on our part. It's sad that the surveyors that one of them was sleeping while in Iloilo and the other surveyor was dizzy and could not care about what was taking place around him," he said.

In yesterday's hearing, the two cargo surveyors hired by Petron, Anthony Fallet and Raul Melaya, were asked if they had noticed or heard something bumping against the ship. Both said they did not.

They also said they had not known of any pilferage operation involving the Solar I wherein another vessel would sidle alongside the tanker and siphon off part of its fuel cargo.

In Bacolod City, the Negros Occidental Provincial Peace and Order Council and the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council on Tuesday passed a resolution stressing their "unconditional" demand for the removal of the tanker and its cargo from the site where it sank off.

Gov. Joseph Marañon and the mayors of Negros Occidental at the PPOC and PDCC meeting said that, unless the tanker is removed, the leak of the sizable amount of its cargo still on board would continue to be a threat, like a Sword of Damocles hanging over Western Visayas. *With a report from Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo talks with Petty Officer 1/c Francisco Villalobos of the 6th Marine Environmental Protection Command after meeting with disaster officials in Poblacion Alubihod, Nueva Valencia, Guimaras. LYN RILLON

Hundreds stricken ill in villages of Guimaras, Iloilo

From page A1

not be over for as long as the Solar I remained at the bottom of the sea.

"When the wind changes and northeast monsoon begins, the oil will hit the Sulu-Sulawesi ecoregion—one of the world's most important breeding grounds for marine organisms, which includes the coast of southern Negros Occidental and the Tubbataha Reefs," said Ledesma, who is the president of the Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation.

As of Sept. 1, the oil spill has displaced 6,156 families, or 30,531 persons in the coastal villages heaviest hit with oil slick.

Damage report

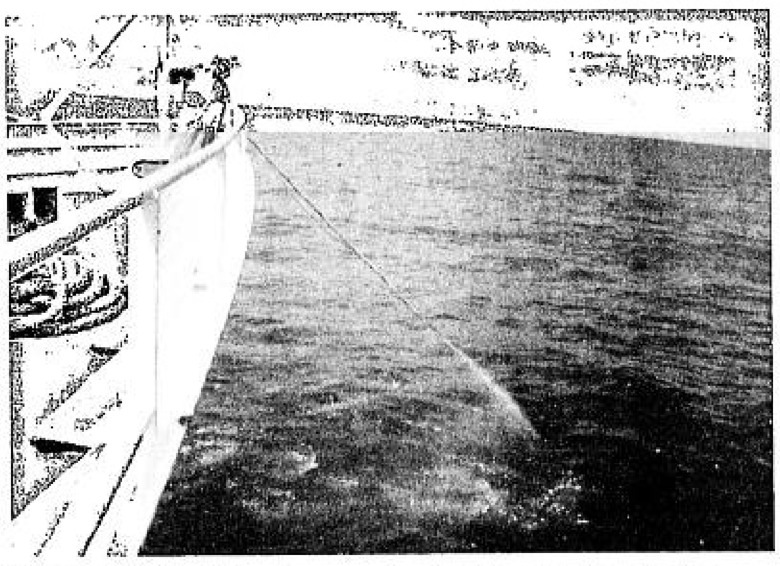
The spill, according to a report of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC), has destroyed or heavily damaged the environment and marine life of Guimaras, including sea grass (12 hectares), corals (30 ha), coastline (220 km), coral reef (15.8 sq km), mangroves (431.5 ha), seaweeds (58 ha), and fishponds (823.5 ha).

On Tuesday, the RDCC reported that 677 people from Nueva Valencia, Sibunag and San Lorenzo towns in Guimaras, and 30 people in Ajuy and Concepcion towns in Iloilo were showing oil spill-related diseases or symptoms.

The odor from the fumes aggravates the condition of asthmatic residents, while other victims acquired gastro-intestinal problems and pneumonitis or pulmonitis (inflammation of the lung tissue), according to a Department of Health update.

The Guimaras Provincial Hospital (GPH) has recorded "initial impressions" of chemical pneumonitis, rhinitis and asthma that may have been acquired from inhalation of fumes.

Rhinitis is a reaction that occurs in the eyes, nose and throat when airborne irritants (allergens) trigger the release of histamine that causes inflammation and fluid production in the fragile linings of nasal passages, sinuses and eyelids, said the Center for Chronic Nasal and Sinus Dysfunction of the United States.


PHILIPPINE Coast Guard sprays chemical dispersant to prevent spilled bunker fuel oil in the waters where the MT Solar I sank, causing a massive environmental damage. ARNOLD ALMACEN / INQUIRER VISAYAS

Hospital advisory

"Acute gastritis and gastroenteritis may be due to intake of fish contaminated by bunker fuel oil and contact dermatitis may be due to contact with bunker oil while on the sea shore," said an advisory from the GPH.

"Reports of sickness related to the oil spill remain as suspected cases and initial impressions yet to be confirmed as we have already sent the blood samples of affected residents to the National Epidemiology Center at the Philippine General Hospital," said Dr. Bobby Yoro, hospital chief.

Yoro told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview yesterday that the hospital had set guidelines on ascertaining the probability of persons being affected by the spill.

"They must have lived within 100 meters of the oil-affected site and their length of exposure to oil and fumes should be more than 15 days to be considered high-risk individuals," he said.

He said health officials were attending to the victims in the evacuation areas.

Health officials have quarantined a 100-meter radius from the shoreline of the villages of Cabalagnan and Lapaz in Nueva Valencia after initial tests showed a very high level of toxicity in the area.

High levels of hydrogen sulfide and aromatic hydrocarbons like benzene, ethyl benzene, toluene and xylene were found.

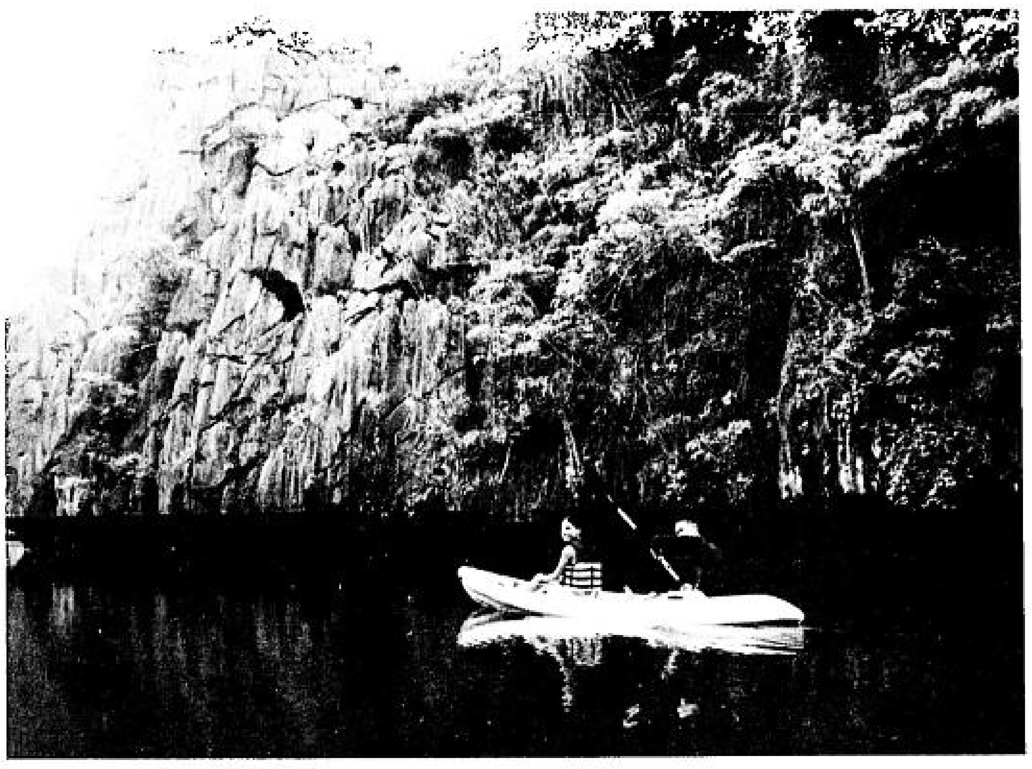
Safe to eat

The regional office of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, however, reiterated that fish in the Iloilo-Guimaras Strait and the Panay Gulf were "definitely" safe to eat.

It said samples of almost 20 species of fish caught in the areas were tested negative for bunker fuel oil.

But Drusila Ong, BFAR regional director, warned against eating contaminated shells and mollusks from the shorelines as these were dangerous to human health.

Since the spill was reported, people have shied away from buying fish caught in the waters of Iloilo despite repeated assurances from the BFAR that these were safe to eat.


TWO TOURISTS enjoy kayaking on the big lagoon surrounded by limestone cliffs in El Nido, Palawan. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

2 El Nido resorts make it …

From page A1

the magazine in December last year.

A survey done by Conde Nast Traveler among its readers showed that 75 percent deemed it important for hotels or resorts near impoverished areas to help uplift the lives of local residents through education and health care.

The Miniloc and Lagen resorts are owned and developed by Ten Knots Development Corp. Seventy-three percent of their workforce are local residents.

All employees—from the gardeners to the divers and guides—have been educated on the flora and fauna of El Nido, waste management, and how the preservation of the environment relates to their personal lives, Laririt said.

El Nido is known for its forest and marine resources, including 200 species of fish, 100 species of corals, 103 bird species, and 20 species of mammals, some of which are endemic to Palawan. It is also a nesting ground for three species of endangered turtles and boasts of huge limestone cliffs.

Educating guests

The resorts' owner also allots 3 percent of its profits to environmental initiatives.

The resorts are also developing a standardized nature interpretation, where every guest would be provided with information on the natural surroundings of the resorts, including the introduction of the names of birds and fish.

"It's heartfelt. We always try to find ways to relate to our guests how natural resources relate to us. People not just come and go. There is a deliberate effort to raise their environmental consciousness," Laririt said.

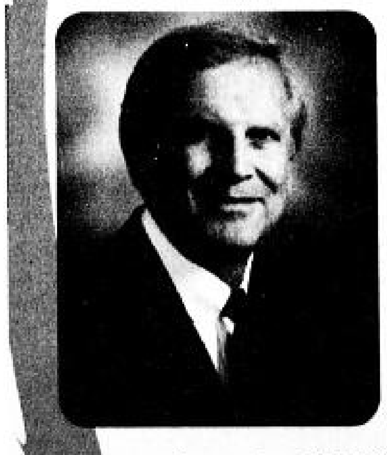
From January to July, the El Nido resorts reported 12,735 room nights (the number of nights the rooms were occupied). Its top clients are Filipinos (20 percent), Koreans (20 percent), Japanese (10 percent), Europeans (10 percent) and North Americans (10 percent).

Other winners

Making it to the Green List "shows that environmentally sustainable practices can be done even in a Third World like ours. It's not a case of either development or environmental preservation," Irma Rose C. Marcelo, executive director of the El Nido Foundation Inc., said in a phone interview.

The other top destinations are Nihiwatu in Indonesia, Grootbos Nature Reserve in South Africa, Aspen Skiing Company in Colorado, Adventure Life Journeys, which runs tours in Antarctica and Africa, La Ruta Moskitia in Honduras, and Tenuta di Spannochia in Italy.

Conde Nast Publications Ltd. is also known for its fashion and lifestyle magazines, including the widely popular Vogue, Tatler, Vanity Fair, GQ, World of Interiors and Brides.



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Spitting on it

EDITORIAL

PITY THE GOOD PEOPLE OF CAGAYAN DE ORO. Their elected representative in Congress—and, by extension, their own proud city—will forever be associated with the Arroyo administration's shameless display of outright contempt for the Constitution.

After the House committee on constitutional amendments voted on Tuesday to approve Resolution No. 1230, which seeks to convene Congress into a constituent assembly (unconstitutionally, in our view and that of many others), the committee chair, Rep. Constantino Jaraula of Cagayan de Oro, immediately welcomed the result with the most fatuous statement of the year. "The motion was approved overwhelmingly. This is not my triumph but the triumph of the committee and the Filipino people."

His triumph? Where did he get the idea that his role as engineer of the Charter change express was a personal achievement? Not even Rep. Simeon Datumanong, who controversially masterminded the rejection of two impeachment cases against President Macapagal-Arroyo in two years, was foolish enough to claim the impeachment votes as a personal feat.

But we haven't even begun to plumb the depths of absurdity in Jaraula's statement.

The committee's approval of the motion cannot by any stretch of the imagination be called a triumph; it was simply the majority flexing its muscles. Was the eventual outcome ever at risk? Not even the most optimistic members of the House opposition thought so. In fact, the only element of mystery in the process was timing. When would the House leadership send the signal to the committee to go ahead and vote?

Indeed, when push came to shove (or, to sustain the original metaphor, when the light turned green), the committee did not even bother to discuss the substance of the motion. As opposition Rep. Roilo Golez pointed out, the committee spent two hours wrangling last Tuesday, but only on procedural matters. The actual discussion of the motion took less than a minute.

In the news release issued by Congress, Jaraula tried to address the opposition's concerns about fast-tracking. Charter change, he said, has "long been the subject of debate in Congress and numerous other public forums for almost a decade now." The two-hour meeting on Tuesday, he implied, should be understood in that longer-term context.

But Jaraula, in his eager defense of the administration strategy, was once again merely being absurd. There is no such thing as a 10-year-old "subject of debate in Congress." The legislative clock is rewound at the start of each Congress; even bills which have passed one chamber must be refiled if they do not become law.

In other words, Jaraula was playing fast and loose with the facts. The principal reason the administration coalition green-lighted the committee vote was not because it was time to conclude a decade of debate, but because the House leadership said it had the support of three-fourths of the chamber to convene a constituent assembly.

So much for the triumph of the committee. But the triumph of the Filipino people?

House Resolution No. 1230, which the committee approved and which will now be voted on in plenary, actually kills the Constitution it seeks to save.

Speaker Jose de Venecia is being economical with the truth when he insists, again and again, that the presidential form of government "has failed the Filipino people." But he is downright being miserly when he interprets a key provision in the Constitution—which states that "Congress, upon a vote of three-fourths of all its members, may propose to change the Charter"—as doable even without the Senate's participation.

And Jaraula and his committee think the Speaker's view is not only reasonable, but God's honest truth. Surely, however, this unusual interpretation is even more absurd than Jaraula's own not-my-triumph-but-ours statement.

If a legislative measure requires both chambers of Congress to vote separately, before it can become law, how much more is the participation of both chambers required when amendments of or revisions to the Constitution, our system's basic law, are at stake?

Ordinary people can appreciate the import of this question. But De Venecia, Jaraula and others in the administration coalition don't even hear the question. They have a different answer in mind, and they rip and shred the Constitution and spit on it to suit their ends.

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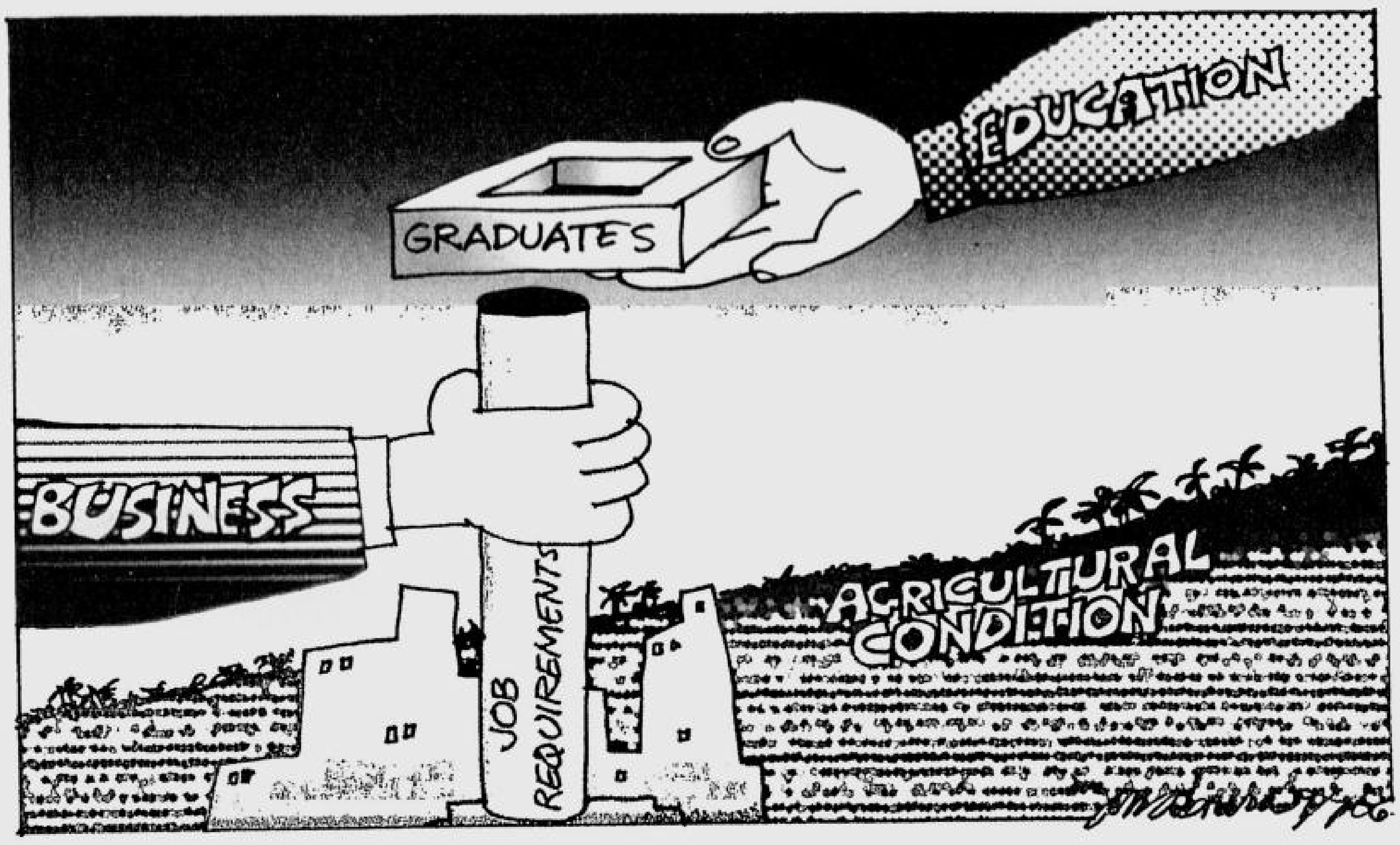

Identity amnesia

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?" A CONGRESSman from northern Cebu snarled at the young traffic officer he slapped for flagging his car down, this column recalled in "Beyond parking tickets." (PDI, 8/22/06) "Violence was his chosen form of immunity from a parking ticket violation."

Filipinos have no monopoly on self-worshipping arrogance, notes former United Nations economist Conrado Sanchez. He e-mailed this story about an incident at Denver airport, which handles 43.3 million passengers yearly. It's noted for a unique white fabric tension roof, reminiscent of the nearby snow-capped Rocky Mountains.

But architecture wasn't on the mind of miffed passengers on an abruptly cancelled United Airlines flight. A long queue of travelers shuffled forward to the one lady-agent rebooking them. Brusquely, an angry passenger cut into the line. Slapping his ticket on the counter, he demanded: "I must be on this flight. And it has to be first-class."

"I am sorry, sir," the agent replied. "I'll be happy to try to help you, but, I've got to help these folks first. And I'm sure we'll be able to work something out."

The passenger snorted loudly so those behind him could hear, "Do you have any idea who I am?"

Without missing a beat, the agent smiled and grabbed her public address microphone. "May I have your attention please," she began, her voice crackling throughout the terminal. "We have a passenger here at Gate 14 who does not know who he is. If anyone can help him find his identity, please come to Gate 14."

The people in the queue erupted with laughter. Glaring at the lady agent, the self-worshipper replied through gritted teeth, "F—k you!"

Unruffled, the agent smiled sweetly and said, "I'm sorry, sir. For that, you'll have to get in line too."

"I wish I had the brains and the guts of this girl who made her point when confronted with a passenger who probably deserved to fly as cargo," Ben Sanchez comments.

One also wishes a Cebu judge had the same grit. He dismissed the slapping charge "to protect the dignity of the high office of congressman."

Travel brings you face to face not only with nuts but also with fractured English, writes a former UN colleague from Malaysia. Agricultural economist Ti Teow Choo sent this collection of signs:

At Naruwan terminal in Taiwan: "Departure. Bus. Stop. Rectal." And at the lobby's information desk: "Any assistance? We can help you with our pleasure." "

In a Korean train station, fire exits are marked "Emergency Trap." A no smoking policy is enforced by the sign that reads, "No Conflagration." Restroom signs bear this instruction: "Go backward to your behind." Inside, there's this reminder to flush: "You lady will push this button before leaving."

On a Japanese noodle shop window: "Tukekara noodles of a phantom with the resistance to the teeth of the boast of our shop. The exquisite rainy season which repeated trial and error method was completed.

"Colorful Red Pepper of Asia and domestic selection of pork with little fat of the female is used. It has the healthy vegetable with the salad feeling fully."

On the sushi shop: "Please keep chair in position and table cleaned after dying. Thanks for your corporation." Over garbage bins by the door: "Please hastily throus thrash."

From Australia, author-painter Alfredo Roces sent this essay submitted during a civil service examination in India. After reading "He Is The Cow," you'll forget all the English you've learned, Ding says.

"The cow is a successful animal. Also he is 4 footed, and because he is female, he give milks [but will do so when he is got child.] He is same like-God, sacred to Hindus and useful to man.

"But he has got four legs together. Two are forward and two are afterwards. His whole body can be utilized for use. More so the milk. Milk comes from 4 taps attached to his basement. [Horses don't have any such attachment.]

"What can it do? Various butter, cream, curd, ghee, the condensed milk and so forth. Also he is useful to cobbler, watermans and mankind generally.

"His motion is slow only because he is of lazy species. Also his other motion is much useful to trees, plants as well as making flat cakes, like pizza in hand and drying in the sun.

"Cow is the only animal that extricates his feeding after eating. Then afterwards she chew with his teeth whom are situated in the inside of the mouth. He is incessantly in the meadows in the grass.

"His only attacking and defending organ is the horns, specially so when he is got child. This is done by knowing his head whereby he causes the weapons to be paralleled to the ground of the earth and instantly proceed with great velocity forwards.

"He has got tails also, situated in the backyard, but not like similar animals. It has hairs on the other end of the other side. This is done to frighten away the flies which alight on his cohesive body hereupon he gives hit with it.

"The palms of his feet are soft unto the touch. So the grasses head is not crushed. At night time have poses by looking down on the ground and he shouts. His eyes and nose are like his other relatives. This is the cow."

No identity amnesia here. And the examinee passed and is working today somewhere in Bihar.

* * *

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Losers, winners

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THERE WERE A COUPLE OF SEEMINGLY unrelated stories on our front page last Monday and Tuesday.

The first told of the ordeal of Elmer Jacinto, the topnotcher in the 2004 medical board exams. He dismayed a great many of his compatriots by choosing to work as a nurse in New York instead of as a doctor in Lamitan, Basilan, where he hails from, or any part of this country. New York, however, proved more brown than green for him, or the Big Apple turned out to have a worm in it, courtesy of a recruiting agency which reneged on virtually everything it promised, from comfortable quarters to decent pay. Jacinto and several other Filipino nurses, themselves mostly MD holders in the Philippines, have filed a suit in New York to renounce their contract with the recruiting agency and its US partner.

The second story told of several big businessmen lamenting the absence of a qualified Filipino workforce to meet the needs of local business. "Most graduates are not well-prepared for the realities of the job market," says Alfred Ty, president of Metrobank Foundation. "The needs of industries and college preparation do not match and continue to drift apart."

The problem, says Lance Gokongwei, is that graduates are ill-equipped in English and Math. "It's sad that there are many college graduates who now can't even speak a straight sentence in English, much less write one."

And Lucio Tan says the problem is political will. "There was a time in the mid-'50s when the Philippines was in the same league as Japan economically and academics-wise. Fifty years down the road, we are not only lagging behind, we are almost dead last in the Asean region. Our leaders and educators know what went wrong, they just don't have the political will to correct the mistakes of the past."

Well, first off, Tan shouldn't really be drawing too much attention to the mistakes of the past. He contributed mightily to them. Gokongwei is right to say that the problem of the lack of qualified graduates began during martial law when the regime became preoccupied with security rather than education and diverted huge sums to it. He might have added that the economy also went into a tailspin from cronyism, most of the cronies doing nothing with their behest loans but live lives of kitschy ostentation. The practice did not disappear afterward, it became a staple. Tan talks too loudly about correcting the mistakes of the past, Pidal might be sorely tempted to collect his back taxes.

I don't know that poor English is really a problem. You can't have worse English speakers than the Chinese and Thais. You need no further proof of the first than the blurbs in the covers of your favorite pirated DVD. The English there is absolutely atrocious—not to speak of absolutely droll, the manufacturers of the pirated stuff putting out as blurbs savage commentaries about the movie by critics. Yet China is now poised economically to take over Asia and the rest of the world, to the chagrin of Japan and the United States. And Thailand, which used to send students here to study at UP Los Baños, is now a tiger to our lamb or dragon to our mouse. A language exists to allow people to communicate with each other, not merely to find work. The second in any case is dependent on the first: A people cannot communicate with each other, it will never be able to find work. Or more importantly, create one.

I disagree that current education and jobs do not jibe. In fact, the opposite is true, which is the problem: Current education and jobs do jibe. Lest it escape notice, even the most respectable local universities are turning whole wings into nursing departments. During Sister Mariani's wake last year, I was astounded to learn that St. Joseph's excellent music department (Lea Salonga developed her talents there as a kid) had become just that, a nursing wing. The entire educational system no longer exists to educate, it exists to find work for students—abroad. The entire educational system is blindly obeying the law of supply and demand. It's probably true that current education and local jobs do not jibe. But local jobs are no longer the priorities of students.

Which brings me to Jacinto and company. The two stories are only seemingly unrelated, they are in fact related by the surest of links, which is cause and effect. The problem is that the entire country, and not just the educational system, is now geared toward producing people who can work abroad, whatever work is available and whatever sacrifices need to be made. At the very least that translates not just into a huge drain of scant brain but a huger drain of scanter resources. This country spends a fortune to produce doctors only to see them work as nurses in foreign hospitals. How lucky can you get, being an American or Brit who has a nurse with the qualifications of a doctor to attend to you!

The problem is that we have lost all sense of ambition altogether, we are willing to settle for crumbs, comfort ourselves that beggars cannot be choosers, and lug around a loser's mentality. No small thanks to a current government that keeps lowering our already horrendously diminished expectations. We're now even willing to settle for a President we did not vote for.

Ironically, the three representatives of big business above by, of, and in themselves show the solution to the problem. They remind us of the non-joke about the difference between the Pinoy and the Chinoy graduate. The Pinoy graduate when he sees another Pinoy graduate asks, "What job have you landed?" The Chinoy graduate when he sees another Chinoy graduate asks, "What business have you put up?"

The question need not always be how to find a job, it can always be how to create one. That is the difference between loser and winner.

Another reason for abolishing Senate

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE CAVALIER FASHION WITH WHICH REP. Alan Peter Cayetano has refused to apologize to the First Couple, despite the official certification from a German bank that they do not maintain an account there, is appalling. His latest excuse for not apologizing is that the First Couple has refused to have the opposition's box of "evidence" opened during the impeachment. What's stopping him from opening that box and baring their contents in public?

* * *

Cayetano should be the first person to know how anxious people can be when they feel they've been accused wrongly. His father, the late Sen. Rene Cayetano, became deeply disturbed by the accusations of a Senate colleague that he had made large investments in BW Resources stocks allegedly under questionable circumstances. The insinuation was that the senator not only did not pay for his stocks, but sold them at an enormous profit using advance information that the price would be manipulated. Rene Cayetano went to great lengths to clear his name because he valued his reputation, aside from the charge hurting his chances of becoming Senate president. I should know, because he sought my help in clearing his name. He presented to me copies of check payments he had made for the BW stocks. I listened to his explanation and wrote about it. The controversy died down soon after that. Sadly, his son seems unable to understand that people value their good name.

* * *

The Manila Standard Today's editorial last Sept. 1 doubtless strengthened Sigaw ng Bayan's advocacy of people's initiative as it reported a new opposition plot to have many popular movie and TV personalities run against President Macapagal-Arroyo's candidates in next year's elections. It said that Kris Aquino has the blessings of her mother, former President Cory Aquino, to be on the opposition's "short list" of senatorial candidates and noted that if Kris makes it, one-third of the chamber would be made up of people from show business or with "direct show-business connections." It identified the senators as Jinggoy Estrada, Bong Revilla and Lito Lapid, former President Joseph Estrada's wife, Loi, Sharon Cuneta's husband, Francis Pangilinan, and TV director Lino Cayetano's sister, Pia Cayetano. Kris' supposed political plan, the paper said, "sounds like enough reason to support Charter change and the abolition of that chamber." Amen.

* * *

The Standard also said there was talk that Richard Gomez, a vocal critic of the administration, will be the opposition's gubernatorial candidate in Bulacan, where Gov. Josie de la Cruz is now completing her third term. It also reported that actor Cesar Montano is being wooed to run most likely for governor of his native Bohol. But the paper pointed out that it's not just the opposition that's banking on stars. The administration is reportedly planning to pit Lapid against Mayor Jojo Binay in Makati. Said the Standard: "They say people get the leaders they deserve. Perhaps it's time to ask the opposition and the administration alike if we deserve people like Kris Aquino and her ilk. To paraphrase Kris herself, we aren't 'game.'"

A shift to a parliamentary/unicameral system will help prevent the avalanche of *artistas* as MPs will be chosen at the district level (*artistas* win more easily at the national level). We have no choice: we must have a parliamentary/unicameral system.

* * *

Speaker Jose de Venecia recently hosted a dinner in honor of Liu Yunshan, who is said to be No. 8 in the Chinese Communist Party's hierarchy. JDV has reason to be happy, for top Chinese leaders have shown seriousness in meeting commitments to Filipino leaders. Since his visit to China two months ago to appeal for more infrastructure investments, a succession of Chinese delegations have come here to look into housing, infrastructure, fisheries, IT and banking investment opportunities.

But just as happy was Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki, whom JDV, doubtless deliberately, seated next to Liu. Recall that China and South Korea have had strained relations with Japan lately, owing to Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi's annual visit to the Yasukuni Shrine, a Tokyo war memorial, which the two countries consider objectionable. The vehement reaction stems from the enrollment in Yasukuni's annals, together with around 2.5 million soldiers who died fighting for the Emperor in Japan's various wars since 1867, of some 1,000 Japanese prisoners of war, including 14 convicted of "Class A war crimes" by Allied courts. Yamazaki, who started his foreign service career as a counselor in Beijing 20 years ago, said he was happy to exchange pleasantries with the Chinese dignitary and felt grateful to JDV for it.

Yamazaki is an accomplished diplomat. He was chief negotiator for Japan in the first two years of the Doha Round of WTO negotiations. He was also the chief negotiator with Mexico where, by his own admission, he was able to obtain a "hole in the wall" for Japanese exports.

* * *

I chatted with Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul del Mar recently about the rejection by the House of Representatives of the second impeachment complaint. Interestingly, he said, he found himself presiding over the recent impeachment proceedings at exactly the same time as the first round last year—from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. How did he survive the "graveyard shift"? He said the fiery exchange between Representatives Roilo Golez and Luis Villafuerte and between Golez and Edcel Lagman proved better than coffee. So hot did the exchange between Golez and Villafuerte become, recalled Del Mar, that at one point he suspended the session and asked them separately to refrain from trading insults. At the wake for the late Joey Rufino, Golez confirmed that indeed he was the biggest "*taga-kulit*" for the opposition.

Asian-European sounds in Helsinki

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

HELSINKI—HERE IN THE LAND OF REVERED Finnish composer Jan Sibelius (1865-1957), Asian and European peoples' voices are being aired loudly. Here is a symphony of sounds, so to speak, rising, blowing with the cold Baltic wind that is getting colder by the day.

The event is the Asia-Europe Peoples' Forum 6 (AEPF 6) for NGOs and civil society organizations (CSO) that are non-state and non-corporate. The theme is "People's Vision: Building Solidarity Across Asia and Europe."

What better way to start than with a short ferry boat ride and an informal dinner-gathering of kindred spirits at Suomenlinna Island, a historic tourist site just off the city? After that it was back to the city and the tasks ahead. Time for long words and CSO-speak.

AEPF aims to bring all these voices from the ground to the official Asia Europe Summit (Asem) and create alternatives to Asem's "neoliberalist agenda."

Asem would be to Asia and Europe what Apec is to Asia Pacific and the United States. Well, more or less. Heads of state, President Macapagal-Arroyo, among them, are attending Asem, which consists of the member countries of the European Union (EU), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and East Asian countries China, South Korea and Japan.

AEPF (which I am attending) consists of NGOs and civil society groups from all European and Asian countries. Created in 1996, AEPF has had forums every two years that paralleled the Asem summit. The last one was in Vietnam. These forums are meant to give a venue for CSOs in Asia and Europe to discuss issues that affect their respective regions. (Not to confuse this with AEBF or Asia-Europe Business Forum which is also going on.)

Asian and European CSOs have called for more civil society participation in Asem but this is not happening. These groups have had to make their own parallel gathering in order to call attention to issues on the ground. Coming out together in a big way calls the attention of world leaders and decision-makers. The Philippines has a good representation in AEPF, from the non-communist Left mostly, and why not, it is also the NGO/civil society hub of Asia.

As a bi-regional network, AEPF has indeed opened a new chapter in people-to-people relations and among CSOs in Asia and Europe. Socio-economic and political experts from both regions have recognized the significance of intergovernmental relations and concerted responses to issues.

Besides strengthening linkages in these two regions, AEPF has made lobby visits to Asem member countries to bring up the Asian financial crisis and call for an Asia Monetary Fund, European development cooperation and the EU-Latin American regulation.

AEPF has also done research on the impact of economic instruments such as the Investment Promotion Action Plan and the Trade Facilitation Action Plan developed by Asem.

There have been exchanges on privatization of water utilities in Asian cities and the involvement of European companies. The reconciliation process in the Korean peninsula and security issues have also been discussed in the past. The AEPF network has been expanded with the inclusion of Vietnamese groups and requests from Chinese groups for inclusion.

AEPF bewails the "narrow economic focus" of the Asem process that results in the "severe marginalization" of key concerns such as human rights, equitable development, democratization and environmental protection. Government-civil society dialogue has yet to be concretized.

AEPF sees EU-Asia relations to be in an interesting stage. Both are seeking positions in the global trade and the geo-political state of affairs. For EU, it is the inclusion of new countries, deepening integration and major constitutional issues.

In Asia, things continue to unfold. There is the restructuring of the labor market, migration, deregulation and privatization of public services. Asia also hopes to be a fully integrated region with the establishment of the East Asian Community modeled after the EU.

The question: How united can East Asia be with its "patchwork of political discord, territorial conflict and economic equality"? Asia has much to learn from the EU experience.

AEPF's long-term goal is to establish itself as a leading forum for advancing a critical understanding of Asia-Europe relations through research excellence, policy formulation and campaigning. "Critical mass" is important if it is to sustain its inter-regional connectivity, expertise and collaboration. It hopes "to develop into a hub of networks with genuine national and international significance leading to multilateralism from below."

AEPF's target groups from below are trade unions, peasant and farmers organizations, food sovereignty networks, environmental movements, human rights and development groups, women's movements, indigenous peoples' movements, peace movements, debt and trade justice campaigns, academics and students. Throw in the media, parliamentarians, policymakers in government, and Asem-related institutions. It's a very potent brew.

Deliberations, discussions and debates are still going on among the stakeholders. More on the aftermath next time.

So much for long words and CSO jargon. Tomorrow, AEPF's last day, there will be a meeting with Asem delegates and the drafting of the Final Declaration. And a street carnival in the center of Helsinki.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

New Philippines

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

(Conclusion)

LEON MA. GUERRERO, THE GREAT WRITER and diplomat, once wrote an apologia for martial law titled, "Today began yesterday." And he was right. The problems that horrify our middle and upper classes began yesterday, too.

The ability of show-biz personalities to steal the thunder from our traditional politicians didn't begin with Estrada; it began with the election of movie idol Rogelio dela Rosa to the Senate over half a century ago at about the same time that institutional supports for strong political parties began to be dismantled with the abolition of block voting.

The educational crisis we face today didn't begin last year; it began under Ferdinand Marcos, when obedience was substituted for critical thinking. The old pillars of our communities—lawyer, doctor, dentist, engineer—cannot eat prestige today; and we already see a tomorrow in which our country will barely have a handful of them left.

The empowerment of places outside Manila didn't begin last year; it began in the 1950s, when the presidency was stripped of its power of appointment over the mayors of chartered cities. It would have come sooner, if leaders like Raul Manglapus hadn't been forced into exile. It was made inevitable under the present Constitution, which abandoned the purely unitary state. It was given life by the Local Government Code, which remains underutilized to this day. It was delayed by Marcos who replaced the worst aspect of the urge toward autonomy, warlordism, with his dictatorship; and it is sadly being confused with a restoration of warlordism today. The autonomy many of our local officials want, is entirely different from the autonomy their provincial constituencies actually desire.

Anyone who has been in a meeting run according to parliamentary procedure knows that before new business can be tackled, old business has to be dispensed with. If our problem is that there's so much old business that needs to be addressed, at least we have the freedom to inquire into new business.

You and I have a lot more in common, not only with each other, but most Filipinos of our generations, than we do with Filipinos of subsequent generations. I am, what they call, a martial law baby, and we martial law babies, in turn, have more in common with those who grew before martial law than those who've grown up knowing only relative freedom after Edsa.

The reason for this is whether in Manila or elsewhere, the things that make for familiarity, for a common culture and, thus, a similar frame of reference, were enjoyed by my generation but have been beyond the reach of the Edsa babies.

Church, club, school and community perhaps accounted for a greater continuity between your parents' generation, and yours, and yours and mine—but there was a sharp drop, like a plunge at top speed off a cliff, which is what took place during the war and again in 1983.

But there is hope.

It's in Naga City, Roxas City, General Santos City, San Carlos City, new urban areas where partnerships are being built between officials and the citizenry; where technology is being harnessed effectively without waste and window-dressing; where what matters less is what an official's family has done before, but rather, what they're doing now—and how they're doing it, without bribery, intimidation, or a new constitution.

Let me briefly describe something I saw in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental. There's a gated community there, but the homes being built in it aren't being financed with inherited sugar money. These are homes built by nurses, seamen, contract workers, nannies and caregivers. People whose parents were sacadas told what to do by the hacenderos—or else. To have grown up in a feudal society, and then, in one lifetime, to break that society's shackles: the result can only be something new, unpredictable and better. They did not go to the schools that tried to produce carbon copies of La Salle, Ateneo, UST or UP; they will never be Rotarians; but they will also probably never settle for a return to the old ways and the old obedience.

Add to their ranks the millions of Filipinos who have migrated within our country, breaking free of the old ties that bind, self-made people who can't be expected to be as obedient to the local powers-that-be than they may have been whence they came.

Add Filipinos who can't continue schooling, or buy books, but who wear out display copies in the bookstores, and who seek alternative sources of learning. They do not obey the "no browsing" signs (good for them).

And yes, add the efforts of the clubs that do medical missions, not because an election's due, but because it's simply their civic duty. It's in Gawad Kalinga that is building and rebuilding communities without asking anyone to be grateful. Though I do think a crisis is on the horizon, when newly empowered communities start discovering they're on a collision course with the traditional powers-that-be who hate empowerment. Today's achievement—to get the comfortable and the poor working together—will become tomorrow's call to political action.

You know, the slogan during Edsa Dos was right, after all: "Resign all!" But if you won't go that far, consider what Winston Churchill once said. Explaining his view of his own role in World War II, he remarked, "The pomp and vanity must go; the old world will have had the honor of leading the way into the new."

Those of us who are comfortable cannot afford the illusion that politics is a waste of time. You cannot switch off the political noise. You can cover your ears, to be sure, but it will only mean you will, one day, get hit by a truck. Neither bribery nor force of arms ever replaced noise with harmony—unless your idea of peace is the stillness of the grave. Noise only becomes music with practice and patience.

Perfect career

YOUNG BLOOD

Apple Lopez

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

EXACTLY A WEEK AGO, I DID SOMETHING THAT WOULD surely cause another disappointment to my parents, raise the eyebrows of my *titas*, and make me again the object of mockery of my friends. I again submitted a resignation letter to my employer, my fifth since I graduated from college about a year ago. My friends have been saying that I have become an expert in writing resignation letters.

I'm only 23 years old, but I already have a long list of short-time work experiences, making my curriculum vitae three pages long. My mom has said that finding and leaving work is just like bar hopping to me. I've been jumping from one work to another, hoping to find the perfect job.

In college, most of my classmates thought that I was dumb. Some of them concluded that I would never be successful in life. Whenever we had a group project or report, nobody wanted to have me in his or her group since they had this notion that I was irresponsible and so I would just pull down their grades.

I can't blame them. Who would trust a person who would show up in class only when there's a quiz or sneak out of the room after the attendance was checked? Who would ever trust a classmate who attended classes only if he was interested in the subject?

Still, I never thought of myself as a failure. I strongly believed that I was as smart as those boring dean's listers in our school. I knew I had one talent not all of my diligent classmates possessed. I may not have graduated with flying colors and even left my professors with a negative impression, but I still felt fulfilled because I spent my college days as wonderfully as possible.

I was able to enjoy my life amid the pressures of university life and only failed in one subject, Trigonometry. Still, flunking that subject was a great thing for me. I was able to experience how it felt to flunk a subject and attend summer classes. But I went on believing that as long as you had talent and you knew it, you're already successful in your own way.

That conviction I still hold on to now that I'm in the real world. If there is one reason I can't stick to one job it is that I'm just not happy with it. Sure it's an awful excuse, but to me it's an honest and essential reason. For how can you stay in one company and do the task assigned to you if you're not enjoying what you're doing? How can you concentrate on finishing the business plan if your mind and heart are telling you to do something else, something you enjoy most?

I hate writing resignation letters and handing them to the HR manager. I am not fond of job-hopping. I hate it when my friends rib me about not being able to stay in one company. Why can't they understand that these companies only offered me money and not the satisfaction I was looking for? And that my old jobs could not satisfy the hunger inside me?

There's only one thing that I really find pleasure in doing: writing. Whenever I finish a story or an article, I always feel fulfilled and triumphant because I know that I have something great, no matter how lousy the story may be. Great, in the sense that it's my own masterpiece, something that's totally a product of my creativity, something that did not proceed from commands or instructions of supervisors.

I used to work in a publishing firm before I landed the job that I'm now leaving, and it was one great experience that I really loved despite the very low pay. I spent more than a year with the company, the longest time in my employment history. I enjoyed it there—the deadline pressure, the never-ending overtime work, going over the layouts, just about everything.

Sadly, I had to leave that company because my family was so financially challenged at the time that I had to get out of my comfort zone and look for a job that would allow me to augment the family income.

It was the most difficult decision I had to make. I didn't really want to leave. If I had my way, I would have stayed in that company for the rest of my working days.

Now, I have decided to follow my heart's desires. I will no longer think of the drawbacks of being in the writing profession. Instead, I will ponder on how happy and fulfilled I will be doing the thing I really love doing. From now on, I will not look for a job that just pays money in exchange for my labor. I will look for the kind of work that will hone my craft as a writer.

I know writing is my vocation. I knew it from the time my teacher in fourth grade told us to write a short essay about ourselves. Writing makes my life complete. It gives my life a deeper meaning. Writing makes me a better, happy person because it is the way I can define who I am and it allows me to say what I want to say to the world. I don't care if most people think that there's no money in writing.

I don't dream of becoming a famous writer. All I want is to write about anything that pops in my head, and I hope that what I write will inspire the people who read it. With a bit of luck, through those hundreds or thousands of words, I might be able to make a difference in some people's lives.

I've already made my choice. I will keep writing until my mind grows tired of thinking. It doesn't matter what others will say. I am not going to consider the pressures building up around me. I will not let anything kill my dream. I'm determined to show to the world that I can be successful in doing what I love to do.

I'm glad I have finally found the perfect career for me. This time I am sure I will not have to prepare a resignation letter.

Apple Lopez, 23, contributes articles to various newspapers and magazines.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

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THEY SAID

Like Switzerland

"Our main aim is to show that the Philippines can become like Switzerland. Yes, it can happen here. We can be clean."

—Dr. Metodio Palaypay, a retired professor assisting the University of the Philippines Alumni Association in its goal to make the Philippines as clean as Switzerland

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Root cause of medical crisis

I AM A COMMUNITY MEDICINE practitioner working with marginalized urban and rural sectors. I feel insulted by Malacañang's plan to raise "government docs, nurses' salaries by P438 annually" to stem the "medical hemorrhage." (PDI 8/5/06)

The government reduces the problem to the issue of salaries. Worse, the solution smacks of bribery—not unlike the envelopes surreptitiously given to the bishops or the pork barrel dangled before congressmen when President Macapagal-Arroyo needs their support.

There are other reasons, aside from the economic factor, that drive our medical and other professionals abroad—like political instability and poor working conditions. For example, in many rural hospitals, X-ray machines are in a state of disrepair, or unused because there is no supply of film; for lack of personnel, doctors go on duty for 14 days and nurses work double shifts.

We doctors and other allied medical professionals are trained mainly in a hospital setting with modern technology from the West—computerized equipment, laser and the like. This means our professional orientation is geared not so much toward the basic health needs of our fellow Filipinos, but more for urban-centered, hospital-based practice which is only available in big medical centers in cities and abroad.

Can we blame our medical personnel for wanting to practice in a setting where their knowledge and skills, acquired after long years of arduous training, can be fully applied and are adequately compensated? How can we find fulfillment in our work if all we can do for our patients is write out prescriptions because there are no medicines and equipment in our public hospitals and health centers?

And where will the funds for the additional salaries come from? According to post-Sona pronouncements, additional revenues will be sourced from government-owned corporations and institutions—in the health sector, this means specialty and tertiary hospitals like the Philippine Heart Center, San Lazaro Hospital or the Philippine General Hospital. I feel outraged because these public hospitals will now be forced to increase their fees in order to generate funds for our doctors' and nurses' salaries. In other words, the poor patients, who have no recourse other than to go to public hospitals, will shoulder the additional burden for "revenue enhancement."

It is saddening to note that our government leaders do not have an inkling at all of the magnitude and complexity of the health crisis now gripping our country. It addresses a multi-dimensional crisis with a shortsighted, simplistic Band-Aid solution, a purely symptomatic treatment for a systemic disease. The more proper cure should be to increase the health budget to the WHO-prescribed minimum level of 5 percent of the country's GDP, instead of the current 0.9 percent.

—MAGDALENA A. BARCELON, M.D.,
Community Medicine Development Foundation,
Doña Felisa Building,
Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila

Foreigner notes Filipinos' lack of patriotism

AN IVATAN FRIEND E-MAILED me recently a copy of an essay written by a Korean. It is about his opinion why our country is not making much progress. The insightful essay should prod Filipinos to serious reflection.

He said we don't love our country. We are uncaring and unsympathetic to its needs. We don't seem to belong to our country, not knowing its tradition and history. Our sense of belongingness or national pride is truly wanting. We may be a talented people rich in God-given resources, yet we experience acute hardships and misfortunes. We exploit our natural wealth exceedingly and some of our best people are forced by circumstances to work abroad.

Are we still proud when we say "Ako ay Pinoy"? Does it elicit a sense of pride or is it a cause of embarrassment? Does it give us a sense of honor and pride or a feeling of being ridiculed?

Meanwhile, a TV commercial keeps on trumpeting the slogan "Angat ang Pinoy!" citing Filipino feats in Mount Everest, in the boxing arena, beauty pageants, film festivals, dance contests, etc. The commercial does swell our pride as Filipinos but only momentarily. Filipino pride, it seems, is superficial; it is a living or driving force in this country.

How could the Korean or the whole world take seriously our word that we love our country when we are blind to its needs? We are more ready to see the feats of our national athletes but we are ill at ease to look at the poorest among our poor. We are more interested to listen to the cheers for our athletes and mountain climbers than to the stories of the downtrodden.

The Korean, I guess, is correct in his assessment. We don't love our country enough. If we truly love our country, we should not just celebrate our victorious athletes, we should perform our civic duty to rectify our political madness, social frailties and moral aberrations.

Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher may have given some tips on how we can show our genuine love for our country in these words: "Let us make this a country safe to work in. Let us make this a country safe to walk in…And above all, may this land of ours, which we love so much, find dignity and greatness and peace again."

—REGINALD B. TAMAYO,
member, Sangguniang Bayan,
Aparri, Cagayan

Philodrill has no claim on oil field

WE REFER TO THE NEWS STORY "Palace assures foreign investors." (PDI, 8/29/06)

Philodrill supports the objective behind Executive Order 556—to create a transparent and level playing field for parties that are interested to bid for contract awards from government agencies. Philodrill further believes that EO 556 reinforces the government's commitment to promote transparency in all its dealings.

The Aug. 29 news story reported that: "Mañalac had approved the exploration, or farm-in, agreement with Mitra Energy in the development of the Malampaya oil field to the consternation of a consortium of local wildcatters led by Philodrill Corp., which insisted on its previous claim on the oil find in Northwest Palawan, and questioned Mitra Energy's financial capability."

Philodrill has no interest or involvement whatsoever in the development of the Malampaya oil field. Likewise, Philodrill has never questioned Mitra Energy's financial capability to undertake the development of the Malampaya oil field.

Philodrill, Anglo Philippine Holdings, Basic Consolidated, South China Resources, Southwest Resources and, Vulcan Industrial & Mining Corp. submitted a letter to Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, seeking to clarify certain issues arising from the Department of Energy's award of certain service contracts to PNOC-EC covering the SWAN Block, which is an area adjacent to the Camago-Malampaya oil field.

We trust that we have sufficiently clarified the matter with this letter.

—ALFREDO C. RAMOS,
chair and president,
The Philodrill Corporation,
125 Pioneer St.,
Mandaluyong City

Minors accountable under new law

I WISH TO SEEK THE HELP OF the INQUIRER to counter erroneous interpretations of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Law. The interpretations are being circulated via text messages and articulated by some persons in the print and broadcast media. They claim that, under the new law, children who are 15 years old and below and in conflict with the law will not be held accountable for their improper behavior.

This is not true. What is true is that juvenile offenders are exempt from our criminal justice system, but they are not exempt from the new juvenile justice system, under which they will be held to account for their offenses and be reformed. When the offense is serious (e.g., rape or homicide), the kids may be confined, by court order, in a facility for minors and undergo rehabilitation as part of the juvenile justice system. They are not left scot-free.

The kids we save today through a restorative juvenile justice system will mean fewer hardened criminals in the future. No less than Unicef hailed the passage of this measure after nearly a decade of lobbying Congress for its enactment. The new law provides for a system that will reform children to become better citizens of our country.

We seek the media's vigilance and proactive support to help us prevent the spread of this erroneous interpretation of the new Juvenile Justice and Welfare Law.

—SEN. FRANCIS PANGILINAN,
Rm. 603, 6/F
Senate of the Philippines,
Financial Center,
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Leakage tells of graft in gov't

THE CHEATING IN THE NURSES' examination can be traced in part to the culture of corruption that seems to characterize the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

We, of course, know of the many cases of corruption that have taken place during the Arroyo administration: the P728-million fertilizer scandal, the legally flawed purchase of vote-counting machines worth P1 billion and the mysterious Jose Pidal account, to name a few.

GMA's refusal to allow her Cabinet officials and military officers to attend legislative investigations only shows that she is covering up irregularities committed by her administration. The hasty junking by the House of Representatives of the impeachment cases against GMA, without looking into the substance of the complaints, was another cover-up.

Nothing should be spared to identify those who cheated in the June 2006 nursing board examination and those who helped them cheat. Those who cheated should be punished. Those who did not should be allowed to take their oaths. But to allow cheaters in the examinations to go scot-free would be to destroy the nursing profession, just as we are allowing the breakdown of our nation by allowing election cheaters to continue holding office.

—RHEA BAYONA,
9005-32, 29th Street,
Villamor Air Base, Pasay City

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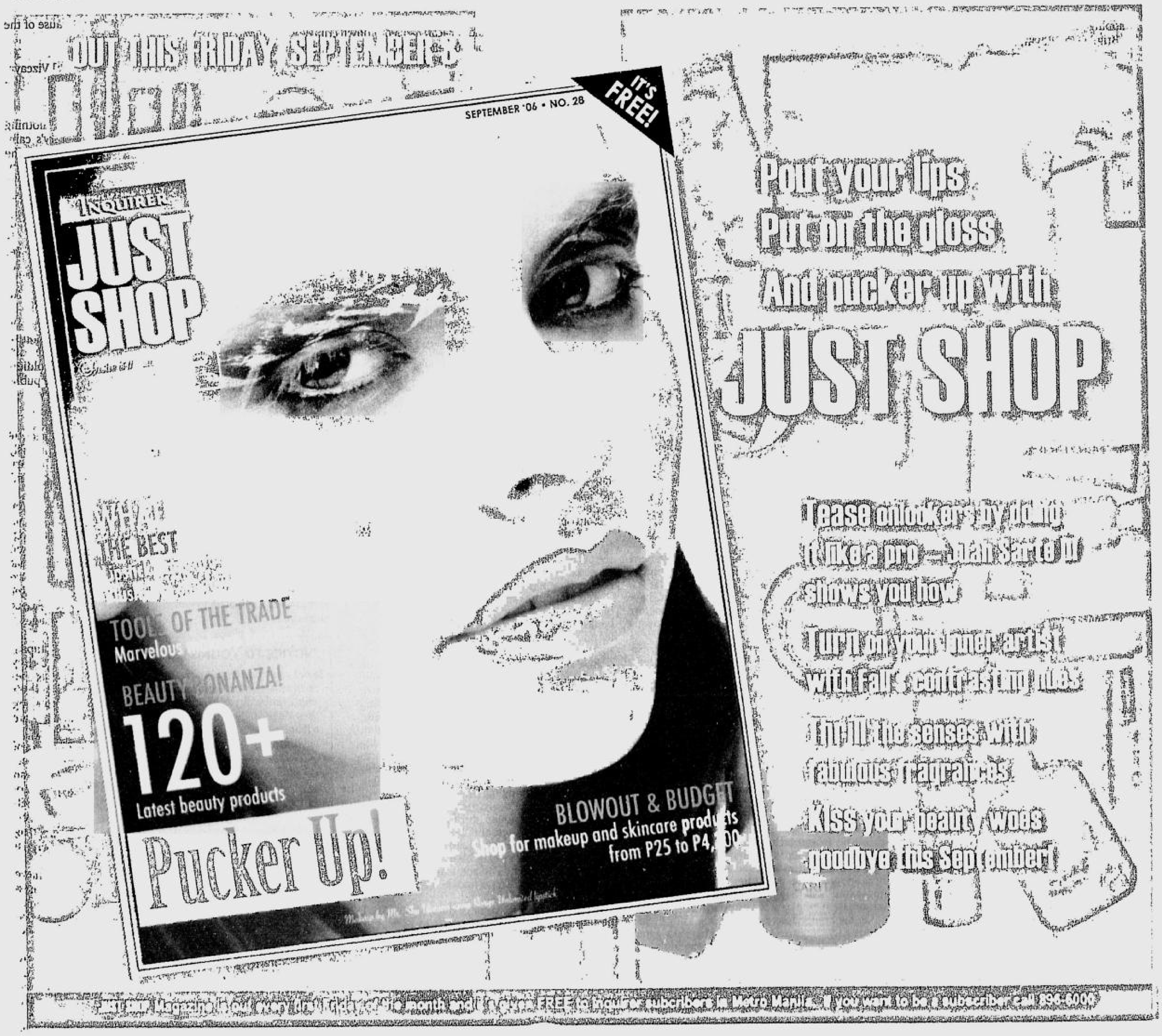
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'Cedula rush' spreads to N. Vizcaya

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA Vizcaya—Conflicting statements from government officials have left villagers in Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino puzzled over the identity of groups of armed men demanding community tax certificates (CTC) or cedula from residents.

This developed as the cedula rush has crept northward across the 15 towns of this province for the past two weeks, and this week reached the southern towns of Nagtipunan and Maddela in Quirino, near the province's boundaries with Nueva Vizcaya and Aurora.

Local officials said they have received complaints from residents that armed men, who they believed to be Army soldiers, have been accosting civilians to present their cedula. Those who failed to present a valid CTC would get threatened or hurt, reports said.

Police and military officials, however, blamed the New People's Army (NPA) for the cedula drive.

Classes suspended

The scare has prompted thousands of villagers, some as young as 12, to line up for their CTCs at the town halls. In some high schools, classes were suspended to allow students and teachers to secure their cedulas.

"There is no question that the Army is doing this because of the way it was carried out—with military precision. From Nueva Ecija, it went up to [Nueva] Vizcaya; now, it's here in Quirino," said a Quirino official.

Quirino Gov. Pedro Bacani, however, said there was "nothing wrong" with the military's campaign because citizens have the obligation to secure the CTC to help the government carry out its programs and enable it to provide better services.

Mayor Florante Ruiz of Maddela said while the military is carrying out the cedula drive, no abuses have so far been reported.

But according to Lt. Col. Loreto Magundayao, commander of the Army's 54th Infantry Battalion that covers Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino and Ifugao, NPA rebels disguised as government soldiers commit abuses to generate public outrage against the military.

Desperate

"They are becoming desperate because they have been seriously hurt by the government's intensified anti-insurgency campaign," Magundayao said.

The Quirino official, however, would not buy the Army's denial.

"Their explanation defies logic. If they say it's the NPA, then that contradicts their claim that the NPA has weakened because (the rebels) seem to be stronger because they are able to carry out these operations in the villages," he said.

Senior Supt. Pedro Cuntapay, Quirino police director, said they have yet to arrest suspects because rebels retreat to their mountain bases upon sensing that the police or military were drawing near.

During Tuesday's meeting of the Nueva Vizcaya peace and order council (PPOC), Magundayao parried complaints that military men have been harassing civilians who fail to present their cedula and have been conducting searches of houses, especially in remote villages.

PPOC members said they have received reports that armed men have been setting up checkpoints along isolated portions of the national highway here to inspect motorists' CTCs.

Magundayao said legitimate checkpoints could be identified through a military vehicle posted on the highway and signs identifying the Army unit that set them up. *Melvin Gascon, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

₱600,000 spent for 'bogus' negotiations on kidnapping

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE FAMILY of the 19-year-old deaf-mute girl kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf said they already spent at least P600,000 for negotiations that turned out to be bogus.

Because of this, the Gonzales family has asked Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar to help them recover Grace.

Dr. Eldigario Gonzales, father of Grace, said they were now pinning their hopes on Ermita and Akbar.

"The situation is becoming so complicated now and my daughter's life is at stake," Gonzales, president of the Western Mindanao State University (WMSU) here, said.

Gonzales said he was hoping the two officials could help the family because Grace "is very frail."

"Her health is deteriorating by the day. She has lung problems," he said.

Gonzales said the P600,000 the family had spent was only "for mobilization" of the supposed negotiators.

"We have already spent so much just for the mobilization (of the negotiators) but until now, nothing happened," he said.

Grace was walking with a friend in a subdivision here when she was snatched in July.

She was reported brought to Basilan a few days after the kidnapping.

Brig. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer, commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, said the group of Abu Sayyaf leader Nurhassan Jamiri was responsible for the kidnapping.

"He was also involved in an earlier abduction," Ferrer said, referring to the abduction in May of a daughter of a Lamitan town councilor.

Abdurahman Manny Narimin, who claims to be an antiterror consultant working with Ermita, said Grace had been moved out of Basilan.

Narimin said the information was provided by Hajji Hasan Lamla, a Moro Islamic Liberation Front leader in Basilan, who has been working for the girl's release.

"The girl has been brought somewhere in Zamboanga del Sur," he said. *Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

Ilocos Sur solon seeks probe of Poro Pt. contract

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES will look into the controversy hounding the operations of the Poro Point seaport in La Union.

In a statement, Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina said he would like Congress to determine the propriety of the transfer of the seaport's management from the Bases Conversion Development Authority to a joint venture firm, the Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC), during the administration of former President Joseph Estrada in 1999.

The statement, however, did not say when the hearings would start.

Baterina, who recently delivered a privilege speech on the management conflict at the Poro seaport, said the transfer was done "apparently without public bidding."

The PPIC had said there was no need for a bidding because the project was solicited by the BCDA.

"The agreement is also deemed irregular by some quarters in as much as the annual fee of P50 million to be paid by PPIC was much less than the port's annual earnings at the time," he said.

Port data, however, showed that the port was earning an average of P22 million a year prior to PPIC's entry. *Inquirer Northern Luzon*

GRIME
Children visit their usual playground on the beach of Barangay Tando in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras, the town hardest hit by the oil spill from a Petron-rented tanker.
ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Police kill 6 rob suspects in Bulacan clash

BALIUAG, BULACAN—SIX SUSpected members of a robbery gang were killed in a gunfight with policemen inside a videoke bar in Barangay Bagong Nayon here on Tuesday night.

Supt. Jolly Dizon, town police chief, said the slain suspects belonged to the "Shotgun Gang" behind the series of robberies in this town.

Senior Supt. Abelardo Villacorta, operations chief of the Central Luzon police, said the gunfight at the Janette Videoke Bar at 9:30 p.m. was a "legitimate police operations, the result of our intelligence build-up efforts."

"That was no rubout," Villacorta said on Wednesday.

He said Baliuag policemen, led by Dizon, fired only after the suspects, led by Hinorio Simbulan, refused to surrender and started shooting the lawmen.

Dizon identified five slain suspects as Simbulan, Jayson Ramos, Renato Balajadia, Daniel Piosca and Florentino Mallari Jr.

Reports from the Baliuag police and the regional police office differed on the name of the sixth slain suspect. The local police identified him as Arnel Ramos but a Central Luzon police report identified him as Luvidino Gonzales.

Villacorta said Simbulan's group had been under surveillance for over a month. It was said to be behind the series of robberies in business establishments in Baliuag since late last year.

A police team spotted the group at the bar on Tuesday, Villacorta said.

Suspicions of a rubout surfaced as the Central Luzon police scored high in their campaign against organized crime groups.

Clashes on Aug. 22, Aug. 12, July 29, July 14, April 2 and May 12 in Tarlac, Bataan and Bulacan had led to the death of 30 leaders and members of the Velazquez, Dumlao, Dacpano and Ilonggo robbery and kidnap-for-ransom groups that are known to operate in the region.

The fatalities in each of those clashes were from two to 10, often dying reportedly after pursuit operations by policemen manning checkpoints in the provinces.

Only two policemen were reported hurt in these clashes that often occurred at night or early morning.

Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan, Central Luzon police director, said the legitimacy of these police operations should not be doubted because "nothing was irregular about them."

"We have successfully tracked down criminals because of our efficient intelligence network and our alert field operations team. At the ground, we have adhered to the rules of engagements. Our operations should not be doubted," Rafanan told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"We're determined to clear Central Luzon of organized crime groups as ordered by the PNP chief to be able to provide a secure climate for investments." *Carmela Reyes and Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Workers suffer heaviest from port closure

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—DANILO RImando, 46, can only stare at a cargo vessel somewhere in the sea off the San Fernando Bay in La Union. Out of work for a month now, Rimando, a utility worker at the Poro Point seaport for five years, wondered when vessels would again dock at the seaport so he could resume work.

Unfortunately for him and the 2,000 seaport workers, the very first vessel to berth when the Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC) resumed operations on Monday, belonged to the Saturn Cement Marketing Corp.

The company was singled out by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as having violated environmental laws. The PPIC management refused to let the vessel dock at its piers until it got a DENR clearance.

Rimando relies solely on his P212 daily wage to support his family.

"I have no income for a month now and our only hope is for a vessel to dock at the pier," he said.

"I go fishing or gather shells at the seashore to augment whatever my wife earns from buying and selling fish in the market," he said.

There are not much available jobs around for the likes of Rimando, who finished only third year high school.

Cargo vessels loading and unloading goods at the Poro Point seaport provided work for about 2,000 stevedores and utility workers, haulers and other port workers.

When the Court of Appeals issued a 60-day temporary restraining order last week to the DENR which issued a cease-and-desist order against the PPIC, the company put up a big "Business as Usual" sign at the port's gates.

SOME port workers have resorted to fishing following the closure of the Poro Point seaport.
TOOTS SOBERANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Despite the sign, all is quiet at the seaport, with nary an activity in what used to be a busy facility where workers and truckers mill around the cargo vessels docked in the two piers.

A PPIC official accused the Poro Point Management Corp. of undermining their operations by threatening importers and telling them to divert all vessels to the Subic Bay Freeport in Zambales.

But PPMC president Felix Racadio denied the accusation.

One of those feeling the pinch was Grazzy Ramos, 41, who used to earn enough from her family's two trucks that haul goods for local businessmen.

She had to send their two drivers to their province because there was no work for them after the port's closure.

To get by, Ramos said she cooks food that she sells in local schools.

"I pity my children because they have to get promissory notes so they can take their exams," she said. Ramos has two children in college and four in grade school.

There are about 40 truckers involved in the hauling business at the seaport, some of them owning five or less trucks.

"Whenever we are together, we discuss our plight, but we are helpless," Ramos said.

Porfirio Abelido, 59, manager of a cargo services group, said he used to handle 250 stevedores and arrastre workers, all of them hoping for the seaport's normal operations.

During the first week of the port's closure, Abelido's workers asked him for money to sustain their daily needs.

"They have stopped coming because I do not have money anymore to lend them," he said.

Abelido had been working at the seaport since 2000 and knew how much it had helped people in the nearby communities get employment.

He is lucky because his wife is a government employee. He said his workers have to find whatever work is available to feed their families.

Like most of the more than 100 stevedores in Barangay Poro, Marbon Corpuz, 25, welcomed the resumption of the operation of the port on Monday.

Corpuz and his family, like the other dock hands, were down to their last centavo and had already started to borrow money from friends and relatives for their daily expenses.

"The closure of the port for more than a month gave me nightmares," he said in Ilocano. "I hope it will not happen again."

"What is important is there is work for us," said Renato Tiu, 37, who has six children.

The haulers and the workers were wondering why vessels were not coming despite the CA's decision stopping the DENR's TRO.

"What's happening?" they would ask the PPIC management.

The firm, in turn, would promise them that operations would normalize soon.

San Fernando City Mayor Mary Jane Ortega said she would respect the CA's TRO.

"However, if and when the PPIC resumes operations, [I hope] the people running the corporation will not forget environmental compliance," she said.

She said the DENR should ensure that PPIC follows environmental laws.

Ortega herself was being blamed by some port workers for their plight, saying had she not interfered in the port operations, their lives would still be normal today.

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Death lurks in winning pieces

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Iriga City

THE YOUNG BICOLANO WRITER'S unusual preoccupation with death has driven him to write award-winning literary pieces.

Kristian Sendon Cordero, 23, poet and fictionist, says he is convinced that he will die at the age of 40. And in his "remaining" years, he wants to be more productive by creating works for the growth of Bicol literature.

Cordero says many readers and reviewers have told him his tales and poems are dark and that his literary style dominates even his erotic pieces.

He says he was first fascinated by immortality when, as a child, he adored priests and movie stars who, he had thought, would live forever, apparently because of the adoration they received from the people.

That "episode" ended when he was 6 years old and realized that they were mortals like the rest of humanity.

Is his preoccupation with death a conceptual acceptance of life's inevitable end? This leaves him thinking even details of possible scenarios if any of his loved ones departs.

YOUNG writer Kristian S. Cordero at the Iriga City railway station, the scene he chose for his award-winning short story in Filipino, titled "Langaw." JUAN ESCANDOR JR.

Palanca award

Cordero's short story, "Langaw," is a dark tale of a poor, abused girl whose sufferings end tragically with her death by the railroad after being raped by several men.

On Sept. 1, the story won second place in short fiction in Filipino in the 2006 Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature.

Cordero says he wanted to make a statement on violence against women to make people aware of the creeping problem. "I cannot forget my aunt who died a violent death in the hands of her husband," he said.

He had planned to write the piece in verses but later realized it would be better as a short story.

His first draft was written three years ago in Rinconada, the spoken language in the eastern towns of Camarines Sur. Thrice, he revised it and translated it to Filipino.

At present, Cordero is one of the voices in the local literary circle propagating Bicol culture and language. He writes a regular column in the weekly local newspaper Bicol Mail, using Naga-spoken Bicol in his social commentaries and expositions.

Among his local awards was a first prize in the Tomas Arejola Para sa Literaturang Bikolnon for Poetry in 2004, a yearly Bicol literature recognition contest.

As an outstanding citizen of Iriga City, he was given the Sumagang Award for Poetry and Campus Journalism by the city government.

In 2004, the young writer won the grand prize for poems he submitted to Homelife Magazine's annual competition. He placed second in 1999 and in 2005.

"The recognition I received from Homelife Magazine gave me the affirmation that I can write so I decided to tread the literary path," Cordero recalled.

His works have also appeared in various publications.

Influence

Cordero's parents have worked abroad to support the family. He and two other younger siblings—Filipinas, now 21, and Bhasier, now 20—were left to the care of his maternal grandmother, Natividad Sendon.

His mother, Ofelia Sendon, a native of Iriga, is now staying home for good, while his father Alejandro, who hails from Candaba, Pampanga, is still overseas.

The challenge to bridge two languages, Kapampangan and Bikol, in the family home enabled him to learn Filipino or Tagalog early. Cordero said his father was slow to adopt Bikol so it took long years for him learn to speak Rinconada.

"My grandmother Natividad Sendon is a folk healer or *parasantigwar*. She performs the *santigwar* on people believed under the spell of supernatural beings, like *engkanto, tawong lipod* or *maligno*," he revealed.

Santigwar, he says, is a folk healing practice reminiscent of the pagan and animistic culture that uses symbolism in expelling demons, like the Catholics' exorcism.

Cordero says his grandmother has the greatest influence in his work. He admires her as a woman with a strong character who has overcome her own adversities, being the wife of a womanizing husband.

His grandmother's personality and rituals somehow find their way in his works as he appreciates her acts to demonstrate the ancient practices of the Bicolano, he says. Her deep devotion and faith enable her to live past the 70s, he adds.

"My second book, 'Santigwar,' is dedicated to Nanay, my grandmother, that through her pieces of thought the book has been completed so that I continue writing, discovering, observing patiently for my dreams," Cordero said.

As a child, he says, he enjoyed accompanying Nanay in many of her visits to pilgrimage sites in Tiwi, Albay or in Hinulid, Calabanga where she was supposed to recharge her healing power.

"Santigwar" is a compilation of Bicol and Tagalog poems, and a metaphor on the exorcism of the present-day crisis.

Cordero says Nanay had taught him *orasyon*, which sounds cryptic. He later discovered it to be a combination of Latin and Spanish languages fused with the native tongue, like the Chavacano. "Orasyon" is the spell cast on unseen supernatural beings.

Priest

Two years ago, Cordero came out with his first compilation of poems, "Mga Tulang Tulala: Piling Tulang Filipino, Bikol at Rinconada," which was published by Goldprint Publishing House.

He finished his Bachelor of Arts Major in Philosophy and Minor in Religious Education and hopes to complete his priesthood studies. He said he still wanted to become a priest.

Meantime, he is a volunteer secretary of the St. Anthony Parish in Iriga and performs voluntary work at the mission office of the Archdiocese of Caceres.

He edits the newsletter of the church's missionary work, programs and activities.

Bala'igang

(Black Berries)

By Kristian S. Cordero

Istorya kan sakuyang
Ama asin mga tugang

Ako an dahilan
Kun ta'no si Nay nagadan

kinagat ko daa
si saiyang utong

("Stories of my father
and siblings tell me

that I was the cause
of Mother's death.

I bit her nipple.")

Saturday library draws young kids, volunteers

By Gerald Gene R. Querubin
Sta. Cruz, Marinduque

WHAT USED TO BE AN empty space at the old municipal high school in Sta. Cruz, Marinduque, is now a beehive of activities for children and volunteer-teachers every Saturday morning.

"We have 20-25 children to teach. The most that we have had were 62 children at one time," said Mildred Regencia, secretary of the central organization of the Marinduque Youth Volunteers Corps (MYVC).

Regencia heads the group's Library Day Project, which was started only six months ago.

YOUTH volunteers teach Library Day participants how to read. GERALD GENE QUERUBIN

"The library is now brimming with life compared to the previous years wherein nobody seemed to appreciate it," she said.

The MYVC, an organization of young Marinduqueños imbued with the spirit of volunteerism, regularly conducts its project at the municipal library. Launched on Feb. 6, the project aimed to encourage children to use the library and its books and services for their self-improvement and enjoyment.

The volunteers said they would also be helping the municipal government by promoting the use of its library.

Library Day is held from 9 a.m. to noon. The volunteers conduct reading and storytelling sessions; free tutorials on English, Math and Science; values and educational film showings; and art classes.

"The activity is fun. We learn a lot. And the teachers (volunteers) are kind," said 12-year-old May Franz Pastorfide.

May Franz, together with her friends and some volunteers, also enjoys playing Scrabble after her tutorial sessions.

Ninia Ariola, a housewife, regularly accompanies her grandson, Niño Angelo, to the library.

"I am very grateful that the MYVC has come up with this noble concept. My grandson has learned a lot and he is enjoying his weekend. The volunteers are kind and caring. I can even leave him to his volunteer teacher while I do my weekly errands at the market," said Ariola.

Niño Angelo is only 3 years old and is the youngest among the participants.

Value of reading

According to Regencia, the Library Day Project is an offshoot of her group's Barangay Reading Literacy Program (BRLP) that aims to promote the value of reading.

Under the program, five to 10 volunteers visit various barangays on weekends and conduct reading and story telling activities among the children.

"We thought of the idea that the library would be a perfect venue for a regular reading literacy activity in Sta. Cruz, which would promote the use of the library as well. We went to the office of the mayor and submitted our proposal regarding the conduct of a regular library day and he immediately approved it," Regencia said.

"We also came up with this idea to encourage children to make use of their time during weekends doing worthwhile activities, which will be very beneficial for their own self-improvement," she added.

Mayor Percival Morales is also happy with the turnout of children on Saturdays.

"It is nice to see that the children are enjoying their time. I hope that more children will come and visit, even on weekdays," Morales said.

According to Filipina de Jesus, president of the Tesda-Buyabod School of Arts and Trades chapter of the MYVC and regular volunteer, the project has benefited not only the children diligently going to the library.

The volunteers "have learned to embrace the value of reading and taking care of the kids," she said.

"It is fun being with the children and sharing our time with them. We are always having a great time reading books to and with them, and teaching them with their assignments in school."

"The smiles on their faces and the twinkle in their eyes as they learn something new have filled our hearts with joy," she added.

The volunteers plan to solicit books—old and new—to increase the municipal library's inventory of reading materials.

They are also looking for civic groups or kindhearted people who will shoulder the cost of school supplies, such as paper, pencils and crayons, that the children can use in their activities.

PEOPLE interested in helping the Library Day Project may contact Mildred Regencia at 09212126873.

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Palace: File raps against terror expert

From page A1

claimed in an INQUIRER interview that he smuggled the components of a bomb on a flight from Manila to Davao on Aug. 14 and back to Manila on the same day to test security arrangements at the Manila and Davao airports.

"Mayor Duterte confirmed that (Macariola) was indeed his consultant for security training in Davao but he disclaimed any knowledge of this exercise, Macariola did not get any clearance from the mayor, it was done on his own," said Ermita.

No more meeting

Asked if the planned meeting between Macariola and the President would still push through, a visibly irked Ermita said: "Of course not. I don't think the President should waste her time on him."

Ermita said he conferred with Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) chief Alfonso Cusi and Philippine National Police-Airport Security Group director Chief Supt. Andres Caro and both insisted that Macariola should be charged.

"I asked them: Do you think he can be legally liable? They said 'yes.' They want to continue with the investigation with the possibility of charging him with violations of the provisions of the Revised Penal Code or at the least for unjust vexation or alarm and scandal," said Ermita.

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PASSENGERS sit near a sign explaining the new security measures at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. JESS YUSON

He said Macariola could also be liable for the illegal possession of materials for making improvised explosive devices such as wires, blasting cap, charger and the triggering cell phone device since he was not carrying a live bomb.

Ermita said Macariola should have "whispered" his plans to Duterte or other security officials before carrying out his experiment or that he should have quietly informed authorities about his findings without announcing it to the media.

He made fools of security men

"He made a fool of our security experts. It is not good for our international image to have something like this. He just wants to get the limelight at the expense of our security forces," Ermita said.

"It is not a laughing matter, especially when we are approaching 9-11. It might be fake now but how would we know if it's the real thing?"

Ermita also said the security personnel on duty at the time of Macariola's scheme "at the very least should be relieved of their posts."

ERMITA: It has tarnished the Philippines' security setup.

Caro also told reporters yesterday that he had asked the National Bureau of Investigation to help in the inquiry being conducted by the Office of Transport Security.

"We decided on this to preclude suspicions that our investigation is self-serving. It will also dispel fears of a whitewash," Caro said.

Earlier, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, principal sponsor of the antiterror bill in the Senate, said that the man who conducted the test should be given a medal for exposing "some degree of laxity" in airport security procedures. *With a report from Alcuin Papa*

Airline finds bomb joke no laughing matter

From page A1

that she had a bomb in her hand-carried luggage.

A flight stewardess on Cebu Pacific's Flight 5J473, scheduled for takeoff before 5 a.m., heard Viesto's bomb quip as she made her rounds, asking passengers to put their bags in the overhead bins.

"Ano ba? Para bang may bomba dyan (Hey! Does it look like there's a bomb there)?" Viesta is reported to have quipped when the stewardess asked her to move up a hand-carried box.

Another report said Viesta told the attendant she had a "time bomb" in her box.

The stewardess reported the remark to an airline operations supervisor who immediately decided to "offload" Viesto and turn her over to the Aviation Security Group.

Later, Viesto explained to airport police that she was only joking. It turned out her hand-carried box contained only an air pot, Chief Supt. Andres Caro, ASG director, told the INQUIRER.

Viesto later apologized to the airline and was allowed to take the next flight to Bacolod.

Embattled airport chief, Alfonso Cusi, pressed to dispel embarrassing reports of a security breach last month, issued a humorless statement: "We want all airport users to be aware that jokes pertaining to terrorism and the like will not be tolerated."

"The safety of all airport users is a priority ... Any threat to such, whether it is a joke or not, will be subject to investigation," Cusi warned.

He appealed to passengers to refrain from making jokes or remarks that could cause panic.

Warnings to passengers against making "bomb jokes" have been posted at the Manila Domestic Terminal and Naia Centennial Terminal 2 since last year.

The Manila International Airport Authority beefed up security at the domestic terminal following the INQUIRER report of a "security breach" by an antiterrorism expert on Aug. 14.

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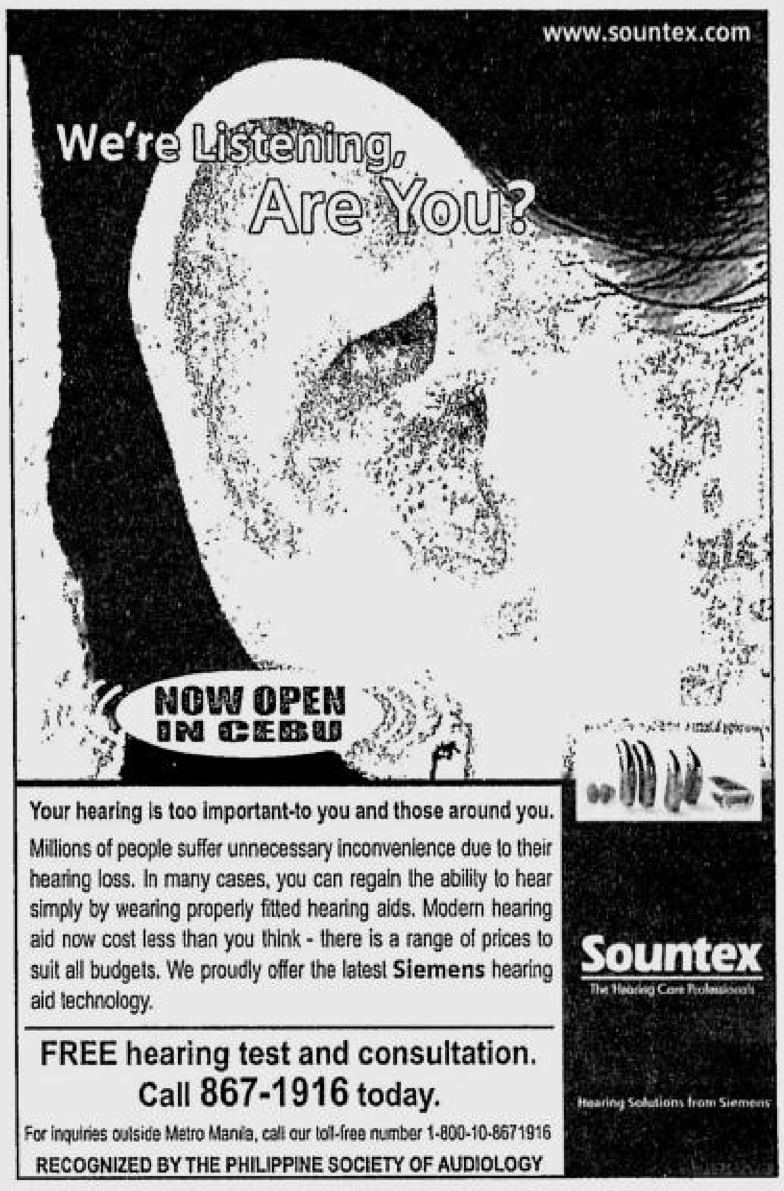
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Gov't bent on Naia 3 takeover

THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE full control of Manila airport's controversial new airport terminal despite an international court ruling to return it to its builders, the president's spokesman said yesterday.

Ignacio Bunye said government lawyers would handle the legal strategy but said recent developments would not way weaken the government's resolve to take full control of the terminal.

The Singapore-based International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Arbitration Tribunal last month ordered the government to return possession of the multi-million-dollar terminal to its builder, Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco).

Piatco built the terminal under a "build-operate-transfer" contract but in 2002, President Arroyo revoked the contract on the grounds that certain terms were illegally renegotiated by her deposed predecessor Joseph Estrada in 1998.

The Supreme Court also nullified the contract for being disadvantageous to the government.

The terminal has never operated.

The case was brought to the ICC by Piatco. Germany's Fraport AG, which has a 30-percent stake in Piatco, is pursuing a separate arbitration in Washington, demanding compensation of $465 million for the project.

The Supreme Court last December ordered the government to pay up to P3 billion to Piatco for the terminal.

The government, however, won an injunction against the payments from an appeals court last month.

In the wake of the ICC decision, Piatco has demanded that the government hand over the terminal but Manila continues to occupy the structure. *AFP*

Senate approves supplemental budget of ₱47B

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and TJ Burgonio

THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS decided to endorse the approval, without any cuts, of the P46.9-billion supplemental budget that Malacañang has requested to fund budget deficiencies.

But certain allocations would be realigned in the Senate version, said committee chair Sen. Franklin Drilon after the third hearing on the bill yesterday.

Drilon said the committee has proposed that the P500 million intended as a standby fund for the repatriation of Filipinos in Lebanon and P2 billion for the Department of Transportation and Communications be given instead to the residents of Guimaras who were affected by the oil spill and to the evacuees of the Mayon eruptions.

Out of the P500 million standby fund, the Senate committee decided to allot only P50 million for the repatriation of Filipinos opting to leave Lebanon. Drilon said the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration still has P350 million to spend for repatriation.

Drilon said P400 million would be allocated for livelihood assistance in Guimaras and for the oil spill cleanup and P50 million for the Mayon evacuees.

Guimaras allocation

The Philippine Coast Guard has also asked for a P118 million for its Guimaras operations and this would be funded from other realigned funds, he said.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile rebuked Defense Undersecretary Cecilio Lorenzo for failing to give details on how the National Disaster Coordinating Council intends to spend the P2 billion that government wants for the Guimaras oil spill.

"I expect you to come here prepared. Don't treat us like kids," said Enrile.

Drilon said the committee would likely to approve the P2-billion request for Guimaras, but only after the NDC submits specific proposals.

The committee will also realign some of the P1.47-billion provision for the hiring of 10,000 new teachers to other needs of the Department of Education, said Drilon.

He said the Commission on Elections budget for the modernization of elections would be reduced by P829.7 million, explaining that an election automation bill pending in Congress already included the funding requirements for poll modernization.

Drilon said the committee will complete its report within the week and submit it to the plenary for approval on the floor on Monday.

After snubbing the inquiry into the cheating scandal in the nursing licensure exams, the chair of the Professional Regulation Commission showed up for the budget hearings yesterday and reiterated that this year's nursing examinees would not be made to re-take the exams.

Because of this, the PRC would not be needing the P14-million proposed special fund for a reexamination, said PRC Chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero.

But Rosero asked Congress to release the amount to the body anyway as it could use the money for other purposes.

Drilon rejected the suggestion outright, pointing out that the senators would have been more "sympathetic to her cause" had Rosero not skipped the Senate's past three hearings on the test scandal.

No budget for retest

Rosero retorted that she neither ignored the invitation nor snubbed the hearings, but was just "following the guidelines" of Memorandum Circular No. 108 that spells out the conditions for executive department officials to appear in congressional inquiries.

Drilon said the P14 million would be stricken off the supplemental budget in the Senate version, and be realigned.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said the P14-million special fund was a "last-minute" amendment to the House version of the bill, to fund a nursing board re-test that the government intended to give for free.

At the hearing, Rosero told the senators that the PRC had decided against a retake as it was impossible to identify all the candidates who benefited from the leak of some test questions and answers.

Some 17,000 passed out of the more than 40,000 who took the exams.

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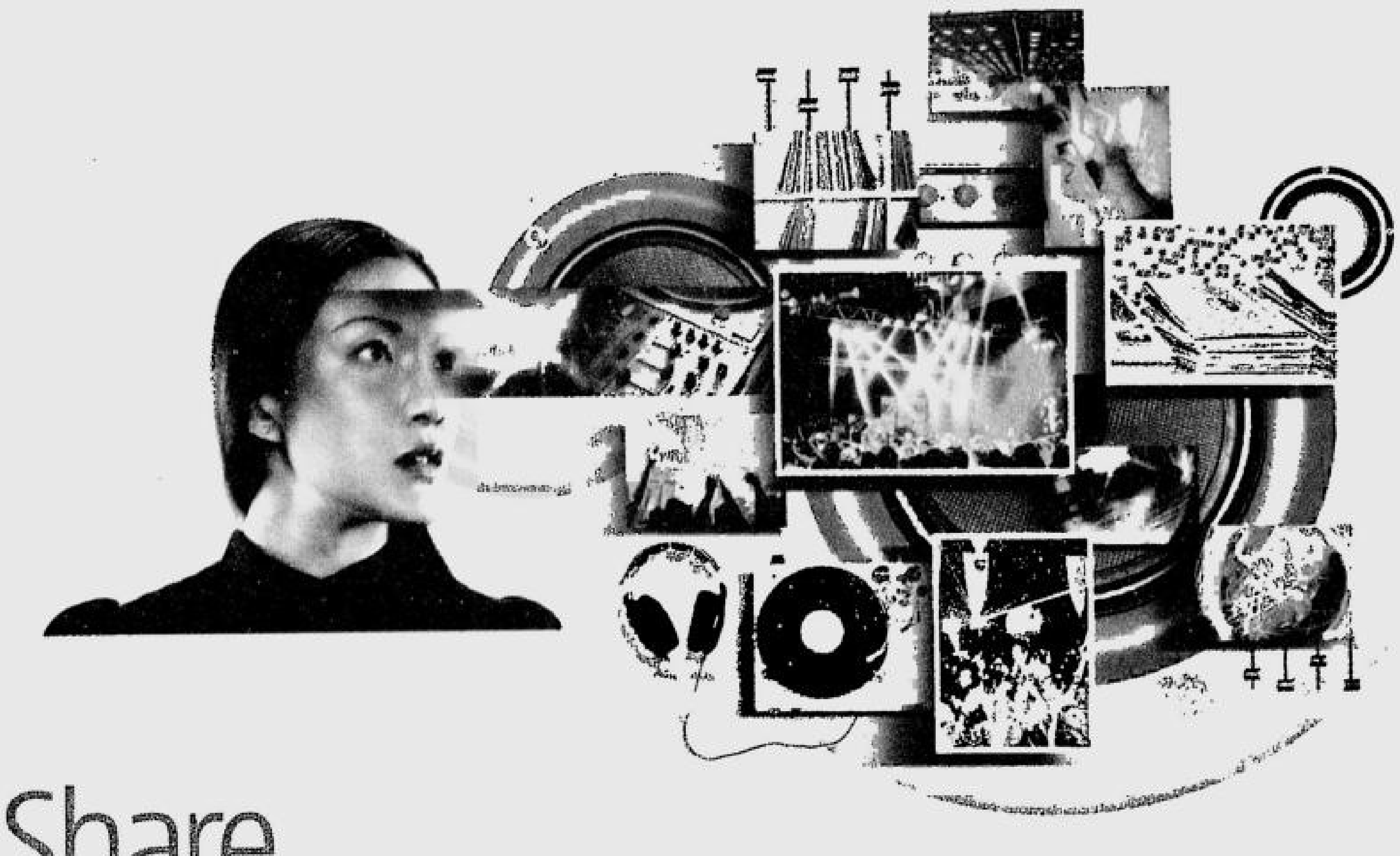

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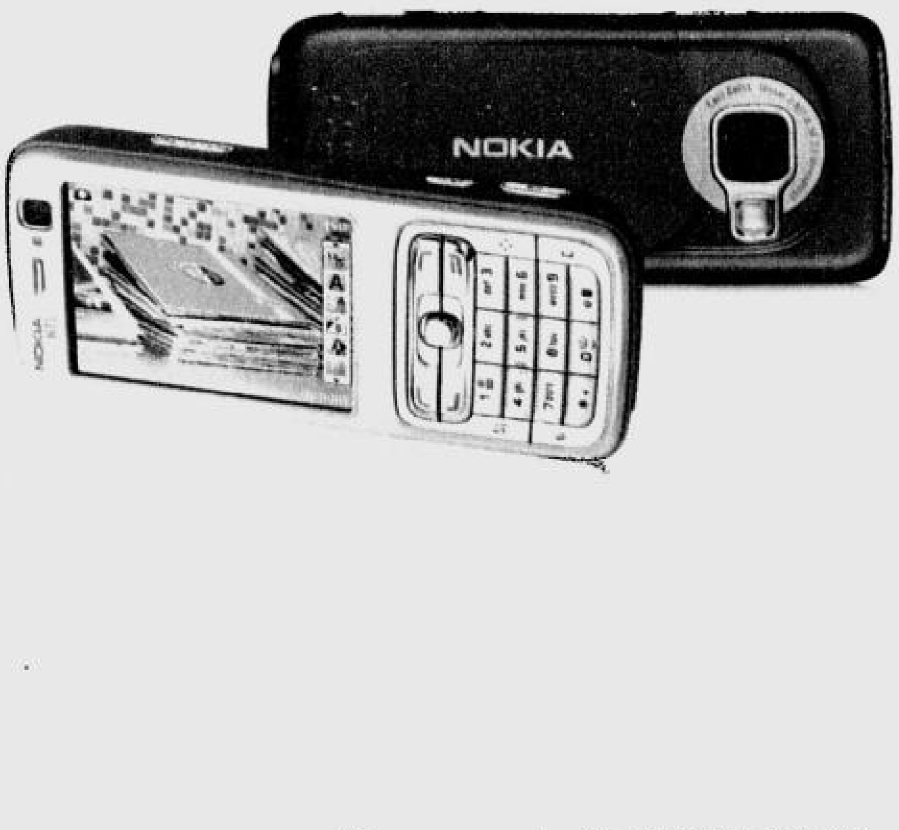

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Uneasy peace reigns at Pasay City Hall

Suspended mayor leaves premises; acting officers take over posts

By Jocelyn R. Uy,

THE FIVE-DAY STANDOFF AT THE PASAY City Hall ended yesterday when over 200 antiriot policemen from the Southern Police District forced their way inside the building.

Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad, however, was nowhere to be found. According to a police official who asked for anonymity, he reportedly slipped out of the building early in the morning without the knowledge of his supporters.

With no one to negotiate with, Interior Undersecretary Wencelito Andanar and the police, led by SPD director Ricardo Padilla, pushed past a crowd of Trinidad's supporters into the Justice Hall where there was a connecting door to City Hall on the fourth floor.

A woman was reportedly hurt in the shoving match that ensued but she was not identified.

Inside City Hall, Andanar served the order suspending Trinidad, Vice Mayor Antonio Calixto and 10 councilors for 60 days.

It was received by Noel Bayona, one of the 10 councilors ordered suspended.

Bayona said that Trinidad had gone to hear Mass at the Baclaran Church.

Torn to pieces

Trinidad was reported to have torn the order to pieces, saying that he and other officials did nothing wrong and, therefore, did not deserve to be suspended.

The suspended mayor and the 11 city officials were ordered suspended by the Ombudsman for allegedly awarding contracts on garbage collection and disposal in 2004 and 2005, without a public bidding.

Trinidad's lawyer, Edna Herrera Batacan, meanwhile, asked the Court of Appeals yesterday to stop her client's suspension to prevent more violent acts between the police and his supporters.

In a "very urgent ex-parte motion seeking to immediately resolve his application for a temporary restraining order," Trinidad said the hasty appointment of Councilor Allan Panaligan as his replacement was done "in clear disregard of the mandate of the people."

He added that the evidence of guilt against him and other city government officials were not strong enough to warrant their suspension.

Calixto and Bayona also filed a similar petition separately.

Panaligan and fellow Councilor Arvin Tolentino were sworn in the other day by Interior Secretary Ronald Puno as acting mayor and vice mayor, respectively.

A small crowd still gathered in the afternoon at City Hall although Andanar and the antiriot police immediately left after the suspension order was served.

City administrator Tina Carbajal cried foul over the manner in which the suspension order was served.

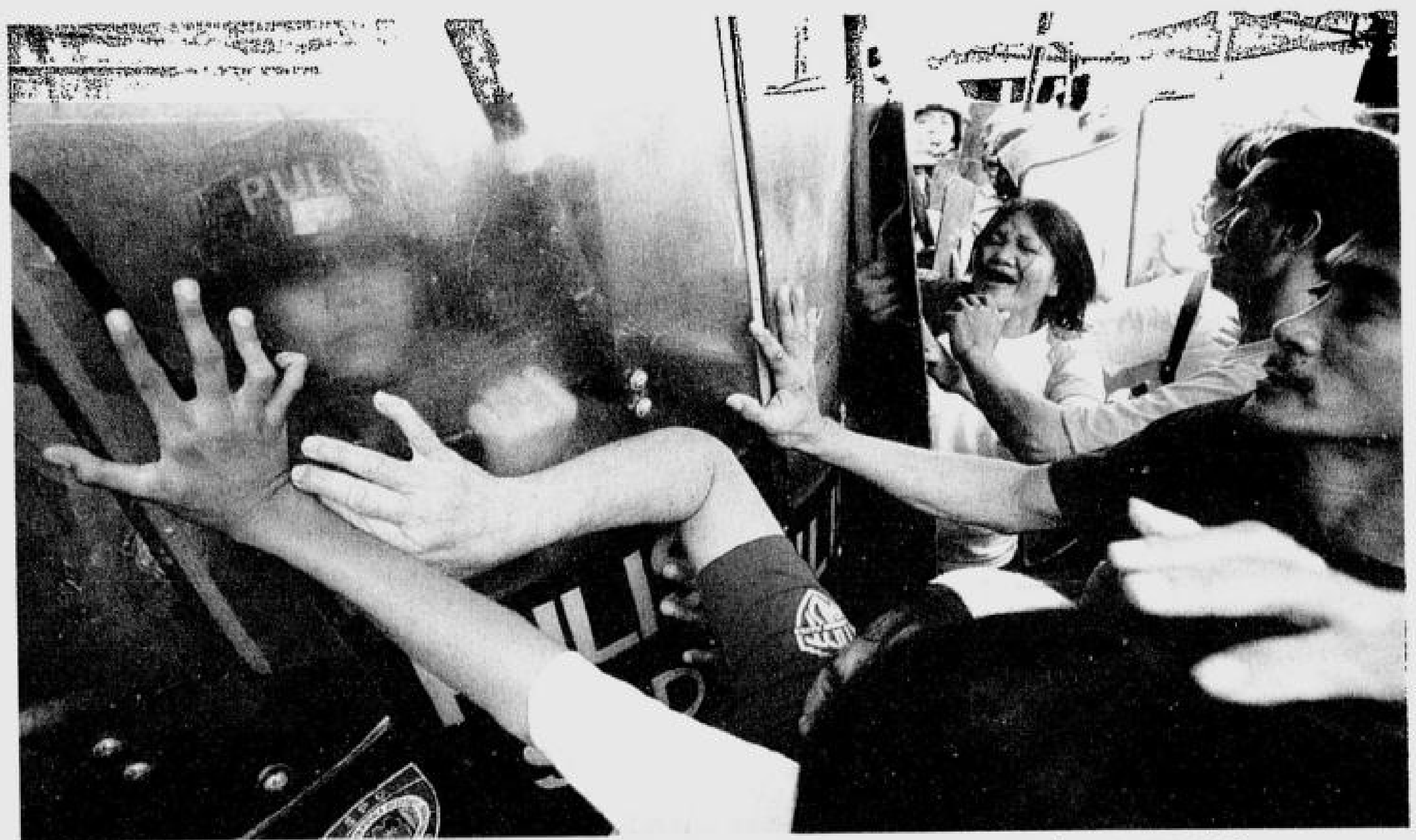
Good faith

"I thought they would talk to me in good faith. Why did they have to enter the Justice Hall and destroy the city hall's property?" she told reporters.

Andanar, however, placed the blame on the mayor. "It is Trinidad's fault. He promised to physically turn over his office to me but he closed all the entry points. There was a lot of deception and booby traps along the way but we have avoided what could have been a bloody confrontation," Andanar said.

In an interview, Panaligan said he would temporarily hold office at the Pasay Sports Complex which is just a few meters away from City Hall.

"I will be holding office there until City Hall has been cleared and the tension there has died down," he said. *With Norman Bordadora and Armand N. Nocum*



POLICEMEN from the Southern Police District attempt to push their way past Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad's supporters who refused to allow them entry into City Hall. After much pushing and shoving, the policemen succeeded in getting into the building, through a connecting door on the fourth floor of nearby Justice Hall.

REM ZAMORA

Metro mayors show support for Peewee

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.
and Tarra V. Quismundo

CROSSING PARTY LINES, SEVERAL mayors in Metro Manila yesterday expressed support for beleaguered Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad who, along with his vice mayor and 10 councilors, has been suspended for six months.

"We view with deep concern the absence of due process in the issuance of the suspension order against Mayor Trinidad and other city officials of Pasay," read a manifesto being circulated among the 17 Metro mayors.

So far, those who have signed the document were Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr., Manila City Mayor Lito Atienza, Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, Pasig Mayor Vicente Eusebio and Pateros Mayor Rosendo Capco.

Other mayors—Malabon's Canuto Oreta, Toby Tiangco of Navotas and Taguig's Freddie Tinga, were also expected to affix their signature to the manifesto.

Atienza and Belmonte are allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo while Binay and Ejercito are members of the United Opposition.

ISM staff wants board members' resignation, seeks family vote

By Daxim L. Lucas

CLASSES AT THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL Manila (ISM) in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, were called off yesterday after more than 200 teachers and staffers decided to stage a walkout to show their opposition to the board of directors.

They also vowed to continue their protest until the entire board resigns.

The teachers later held a meeting at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City to decide on their next course of action, particularly whether they should initiate legal proceedings to unseat the remaining members of the board. The meeting was still ongoing as of press time.

Three more board members reportedly resigned yesterday, leaving only five remaining.

"We have lost the confidence of many of our fellow parents," Christopher Rowan said in his resignation letter to ISM president Gracita Gilda V. Bocanegra. To help restore confidence in the school's leadership, he suggested that the board submit to a vote of confidence as suggested by parents.

"If the board passes such a vote, it should continue to govern, perhaps with a mid-course correction from the ongoing discussions," he said. "If not, I believe the board should call an election of all 10 trustees."

The two other board members who resigned were James Concepcion and Jin Dong Hua. "I joined the board so we could help the kids," Concepcion said. "But when it starts to affect the kids, I don't want that."

He expressed hopes that his resignation would help break the impasse between hardliners on the board on one hand and teachers and parent on the other.

In their letter explaining their actions, ISM teachers said they understood the short-term impact their walkout would have on students' education.

"We have taken this action in open support of parental concern and their attempt to gather the required number of ballots in order to pass a vote of no confidence in the current board," the statement read. "This action will terminate if the present board resigns voluntarily or if the parents receive the required votes to pass a vote of no confidence."

A two-thirds vote of about 800 families is required to execute the move, according to a document circulated by another ISM parent.

An ISM parent sympathetic to the board of trustees and who had attended the meeting, however, said the ISM website had been blocked and could not be used by trustees to communicate their concerns and reasons for terminating Toze to the rest of the ISM community.

Closure order for 2 stores

By Tina G. Santos

TWO ESTABLISHMENTS IN MANILA ARE facing closure for continuously defying a warning from the city government to keep their premises clean.

According to Rafael Borromeo, chief of the city's Department of Public Services, the business permits of the two establishments—an auto tire supply shop and a canteen—would be revoked because of their owners' refusal to comply with the law.

Borromeo said officials of Manila's Bureau of Permits and Licensing Office are expected to serve the closure order within the week.

Manila has more than 50,000 business establishments, Borromeo added.

Warning

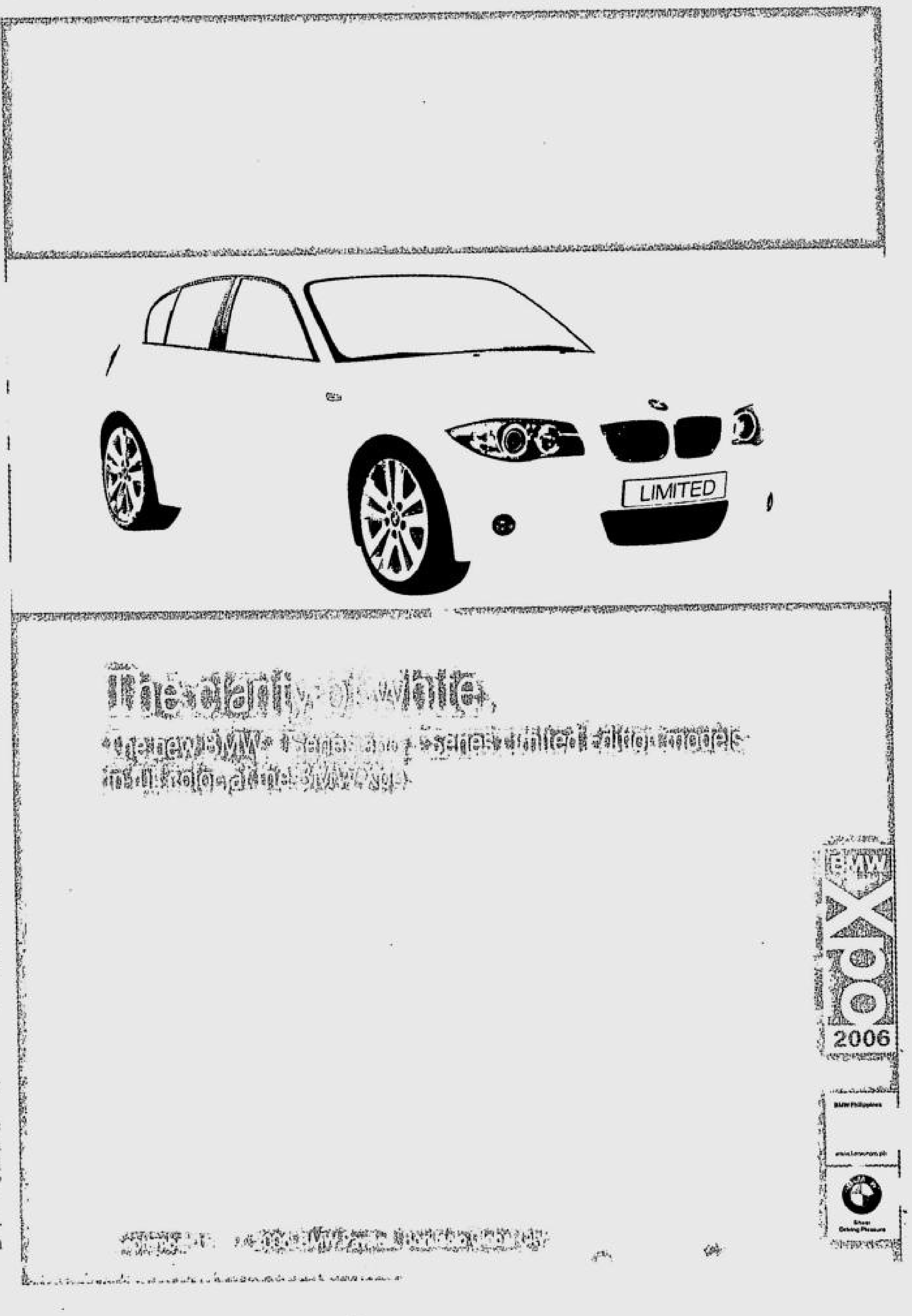
Of the total, at least 275 received a warning for having dirty premises.

"Most of them have already complied the first time we reminded them to maintain cleanliness, but these two establishments did not so they have to suffer the consequences," Borromeo told reporters.

Two months ago, city officials started posting notices on various establishments with dirty surroundings.

DID YOU KNOW

NINE out of 10 households in Metro Manila use the Tagalog dialect. Of the 2,132,989 households in the region, 2,012,285 (94.34 percent) speak Tagalog, 15,657 (0.73 percent) speak Ilocano, while 13,234 (0.62 percent) speak Bisaya. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*



Ex-PSC exec nabbed for falsification, estafa raps

By Margaux C. Ortiz

MORE THAN A DECADE AFTER he allegedly relayed false information to former President Fidel Ramos about swimmer Akiko Thompson and "embarrassed the country," a former sports official was arrested on Tuesday by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation.

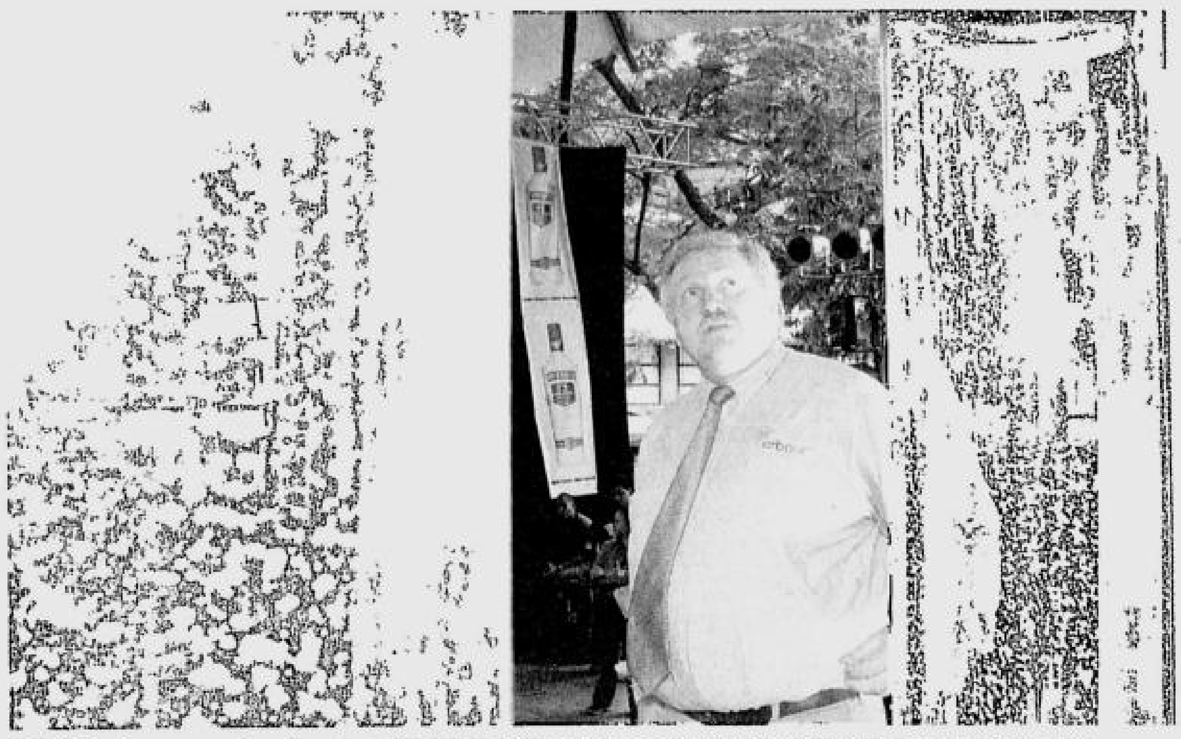
Victoriano Endriga, 50—of 22 Maunawain St., Barangay Pinyahan in Quezon City and 713 Bayanihan St., Andreaville Executive Homes, Salitran IV in Dasmariñas, Cavite—was arrested in his office at the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) where he works as a consultant. Two warrants had been issued for his arrest for falsification of wireless telegraph, cable and telephone messages and libel.

Endriga also has 15 standing arrest warrants for estafa and two more for libel in Manila and Maasin, Southern Leyte. "He also faces charges for violation of Batas Pambansa 22 or the bouncing checks law," NBI special investigator Darwin Francisco said.

Endriga used to head the Philippine Sports Commission's (PSC) Asian Games Media Center in 1994.

An investigation conducted by the NBI Special Task Force headed by Regional Director Reynaldo Esmeralda showed that the former PSC official sent a fax message to Ramos on Oct. 7, 1994, informing him that Thompson won in the 100-m women's backstroke competition, one of the events in the 1994 Hiroshima Asian Games.

Ramos promptly sent Thompson a congratulatory message. An NBI report, however, showed that the swimmer did not participate in any event that day.



JOHN Pudge, managing director of a United Kingdom-based water purification company, inspects containers of water taken from the Marikina River which underwent a rigid purifying process in order to become fit for drinking.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

You can drink water from Marikina River, firm claims

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A COMPANY WHOSE PURIFICATION technology is used in making vodka a smoother drink, said yesterday it could also make river water clear and potable.

"We are here to show that it can be done, that people can get pure water from river water," UK based water purification company Arbourtech managing director John Pudge told reporters yesterday.

He said the process had been tried in the Thames River in London, which was "far more polluted" than the Marikina River from where they got water samples to test the technology.

"People in authority there in London are now looking at (the possibility of adopting the technology)," added Pudge, whose company has produced the purification installation being promoted by vodka brand Smirnoff.

There is a trade-off however: To produce 10,000 gallons of pure water out of river water, local government authorities would have to shell out P2 million, Pudge said. He was quick to add that the cost could still vary, depending on the needs of a community and the kind of technology to be used.

The purification technology which was demonstrated to the press yesterday was patented by Smirnoff and its distributor Diageo. Pudge said Smirnoff could help explain the technology to any interested community.

To illustrate the rigid purification process the vodka goes through, the company used its technology to purify water they got from the Marikina River.

The first stages in the process is the same as in other companies, but Smirnoff added a "finishing touch" by having purified water pass through 10 more columns of filters, equipped with Polish hardwood charcoal to make the water "pure."

METROBRIEFS

2 hurt in car mishap on expressway

TWO YOUNG men were seriously injured when their L-300 van smashed into a concrete railing and then slammed into a bus along the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx) yesterday morning. Marcel Mercado of the NLEx traffic control room identified the victims as Mark Anthony Elaso, 26 and Benito Alcantara, 23. Elaso was pinned behind the steering wheel while Alcantara was thrown outside the van. "The driver (Elaso) lost control of the vehicle which swerved toward the concrete railings after its tires burst," Mercado said. The incident happened at 7:19 a.m. yesterday in Barangay Camachile, near the boundary of Caloocan and Quezon City. Mercado said the victims were brought to the Manila Central University Hospital in Caloocan City.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Fire hits restaurant in Makati City

FIRE hit a restaurant at a commercial center in Makati City yesterday afternoon, causing partial damage to its interior and an adjacent café. For close to two hours, smoke filled the Luk Yuen Restaurant at the ground floor of Glorietta 2 in Ayala Center as the blaze crept through its air ducts, Makati Fire Station officer in charge Rogelio Bucayu said. Citing an initial report of arson investigators, Bucayu said the fire started at the restaurant's airduct system in the kitchen area at around 1:40 p.m. The customers and crew were immediately evacuated while traffic was diverted to give way to fire rucks, Bucayu said. The mall was also closed for a few hours to ensure shoppers' safety. Firefighters managed to quickly contain the blaze and put it out by 3:20 p.m. Arson investigators have yet to determine the cause of the fire.

Tarra V. Quismundo

MANILA GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, INC.
HARVARD ROAD, FORBES PARK
MAKATI CITY
MANILA GOLF

Sept. 7, 2006

NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

TO ALL MEMBERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

The Bidding Committee of Manila Golf and Country Club, Inc., hereby announces the auction sale of the following described property:

(a) one (1) individual proprietary membership certificate.
(b) one (1) corporate proprietary membership certificate.

Any interested party may submit his written bid beginning today until 4:00 pm, September 14, 2006 to the Office of the Club's General Manager.

The bid shall be subject to the following conditions:

(c) Minimum bid of P12,000,000.00 for individual proprietary membership certificate.
(d) Minimum bid of P13,100,000.00 for corporate proprietary membership certificate
(e) Bids shall be accompanied by manager's check equivalent to 20% of the bid price payable to the Manila Golf and Country Club, Inc. and the balance within three (3) days from notice of bid acceptance.
(f) Exemption from the transfer fee of P300,000.00
(g) Certificate will be issued immediately upon receipt of full payment and documentary stamp taxes.

(Sgd.) **CESAR CRUZ**
Chairman, Bidding Committee

(PDI--Sept. 7, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Baguio
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL
(FIRST STAGE)

The City Government of Baguio thru the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to submit proposals (Detailed Design) for the hereunder City Funded infrastructure project

Project No.	Project Title	Location	Approved Budget for the Contract
1	Conversion of Irisan Open Dumpsite into a Controlled Disposal	Irisan	Php 18,139,000.00

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Evaluation of Proposals shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

The schedule of BAC Activities are as follows:

No.	Activity	Venue	Time & Date
1.	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI)	Planning & Development Office, City Hall Baguio City (BAC Secretariat for Infra)	8:00am-5:00pm, September 21 27, 2006
2.	Site Inspection	In coordination with the City Environment and Parks Management Office (CEPMO)	8:00am-5:00pm, September 21-27 2006
3.	Pre-Procurement	Office of the BAC Chairman, City Budget Office, City Hall Baguio City	2:00pm, September 28, 2006
4.	Submission and Presentation of Detailed Design and Proposals	4th Floor City Hall Multi-Purpose Building, Baguio City	10:00am, October 12, 2006
5.	Evaluation of Proposals	Office of the BAC Chairman, City Budget Office, City Hall Baguio City	October 13-20, 2006

APPROVED
(Sgd.) LETICIA O. CLEMENTE
City Budget Officer & BAC Chairman

For inquiries you may contact the following:

1. ARTURO L. ORIG
City Planning & Development Coordinator & Chairman-BAC Secretariat for Infra
Planning & Development Office, City Hall Baguio City
Office Tel. No. 442-6607
2. JULIUS T. PASCUA, ALLAN B. ABAYAO or RAUL G. OCASION
BAC Secretariat Staff
Planning & Development Office, City Hall Baguio City
Office Tel. No. 442-8925

(PDI--Sept. 7 & 13, 2006)

Repubhka ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

DepED

Telefax : 636-65-43
Direct Line : 633-9343
Trunk Line : 632-13-61 local 2094
Website : http://www.deped.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DepED-Bids and Awards Commitee (DepED-BAC) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Printing (from camera-ready materials) and Delivery of High School Science and Technology (HSST) I to III Textbooks and Teacher's Guides to public secondary schools nationwide indicated below.

Item No.	Subject & Level	Total (in copies)		Zone 1		Zone 2		Zone 3		Zone 4	
		TX	TG	TX	TG	TX	TG	TX	TG	TX	TG
	Secondary										
1	HSST I	1,551,099	44,866	348,679	10,298	594,826	16,577	289,944	8,609	317,650	9,382
2	HSST II	1,086,465	31,940	267,783	8,037	421,500	11,769	186,270	5,723	210,912	6,411
3	HSST III	1,147,288	33,624	277,938	8,320	443,318	12,375	203,956	6,216	222,076	6,713
	Total	3,784,852	110,430	894,400	26,655	1,459,644	40,721	680,170	20,548	750,638	22,506

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is Php226,000,000.00 broken down as follows: Php93,000,000.00 for Item I, Php65,000,000.00 for Item 2, and Php68,000,000.00 for Item 3. Source of Funds is GOP.

Bids received that exceed the ABC per Item shall be rejected. Evaluation and award shall be in a per item (title) per Zone basis.

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting September 1, 2006 upon payment of the non-refundable fee of Php5,000.00 in cash to the DepED Cashier.

The DepED-BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **September 14, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.** Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at or before **10:00 a.m. on September 26, 2006**. Opening of eligibility requirements and bids shall follow immediately thereafter at 10.00 a.m. on the same date. The pre-bid conference, receipt, and opening of eligibility requirements and bids shall be conducted at the **Bulwagan ng Karunungan**, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar right or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act (C.A. 138). The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instructions to Bidders of the Bidding Documents. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org or call DepED-PS at telephone no. 636-65-43 or fax no. 636-65-42.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) RAMON C. BACANI
Undersecretary and BAC Chairperson

(PDI Aug 31 & Sept 7, 2006)

They misunderstood Mike Defensor

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

AIRPORT AUTHORITIES ARE TRYING TO GET back at an antiterrorism expert who claimed to have smuggled bomb components into a domestic airliner by calling him a braggart.

They say the expert did board the plane at the Manila Domestic Airport terminal and at the Davao airport, but they doubt whether he really carried explosives.

Just because their egos were pricked they're now calling the expert a liar, instead of thanking him for exposing the loopholes in our airport security.

What the airport authorities are doing is no different from a man who gets turned down by a maiden of his affection and gets back at the woman by calling her ugly.

There's a term for it: Sour grapes.

* * *

Chief Supt. Andres Caro, chief of the police's airport security, said he and his men were trying to determine the motive of the antiterrorism expert.

"We want to find out if there could be professional gain or just malice on his part," said Caro.

So what if the expert had malice aforethought or wanted professional gain? The fact is he was able to upstage Caro's men and that should be cause for alarm.

If he were a real terrorist, he would have blown up the plane in midair.

* * *

Passengers don't mind going through all the hassle of having their luggage checked and being bodily searched because they know that the inconveniences redound to their own good.

But when they read or hear that one among them got past stringent security measures, then they have a reason to get worried.

They start questioning whether or not airport security personnel play favorites in conducting searches on passengers and the plane crew.

In securing the lives of aircraft passengers, airport cops should not spare anybody from undergoing a body search.

* * *

If I know Presidential Chief of Staff Mike Defensor, he was misunderstood by the people at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and the Philippine Consulate in New York when he made that call on behalf of a recruitment agency.

Defensor probably just asked about the status of the complaints against the US-based recruitment agency and didn't pressure the POEA and the consulate into "backing off."

The POEA and the New York Consulate apparently misconstrued his call as a form of pressure.

Defensor acted upon the request by a US senator to help the recruitment agency that was suspended by the POEA.

Remember, the Cabinet Boy Wonder still thinks like a politician who wants to please everybody.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development Bicol
BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Naga City
Telephone Nos.: (054) 473-75-78; (054) 473-89-36
E-mail Address: slopez_bmc@yahoo.com
Fax No. (054) 473-89-36, (054) 473-7578; (054) 8112227
Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER**, through General Appropriations Act of 2006 intends to apply specified sum for the following projects:
   a) Project: INSTALLATION OF IP-PABX TELEPHONE SYSTEM INCLUDING INTEGRATION OF PAGING SYSTEM (IAEB No. 2006-014)
   Approved Budget for the Contract: **TWO MILLION THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND (PhP2,300,000.00) PESOS ONLY**
   Sale of Bid Documents : September 7, 2006 - October 6, 2006
   Pre-Bid Conference : October 6, 2006 – 9:00 A.M. 1st Flr., Conference Room, ASTI Bldg., Technology Park Center, CP Garcia Ave., UP Campus Diliman, Quezon City
   Bid Opening : October 20, 2006 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
   Price of Bid Documents : One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (PhP1,500.00)
   Suppliers who are interested to join the bidding for IP-PABX, but who can not personally obtain the bid documents, may deposit an equivalent amount thru Philippine Veterans Bank, Naga Branch, Naga City with account no. 02401-000680-4. After receipt of the acknowledgement from the bank, the BAC will immediately furnish the bid materials at specified address of the supplier.
   b) Project: Procurement of Various Office Equipment and Miscellaneous Equipment (IAEB No. 2006-015)
   Approved Budget for the Contract: **SEVEN MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY SEVEN & 20/100 (PhP 7,850,857.20) PESOS ONLY**
   Sale of Bid Documents : September 7, 2006 – October 11, 2006
   Pre-Bid Conference : October 11, 2006 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
   Bid Opening : October 23, 2006 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
   Price of Bid Documents : Two Thousand Pesos (PhP2,000.00)
   Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the above stated projects. The Installation of IP-PABX Telephone system including integration of paging system must be completed within three (3) months after the award of contract or until March 23, 2007. Delivery of various office equipment and miscellaneous equipment will commence immediately after receipt of notice to proceed or until a period of forty-five (45) calendar days.
   The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his reponsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., except weekends and Holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Document for the project may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as specified above. The method of payment will be in the form of Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address, date and time stated above. The bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms, in the amount at least equal to and not lower than a percentage of the ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency;
   1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)
   2. Bank Guarantee (1.5% of ABC)
   3. GSIS Surety Bond (2.5% ABC)
   Late bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representative/s who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Contact Address: BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
Concepcion Pequeña, Naga City
Telephone Nos. (054) 473-7578; (054) 473-8936
E-mail Address: slopez_bmc@yahoo.com
Fax No. (054) 473-8936, (054) 811-2227
Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm

Contact Person: ANGELITA A. AGAWA, MPA
Chief Administrative Officer and BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) ANGELITA A. AGAWA, MPA
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Sept. 7 & 13, 2006)

Calderon declared winner in Mexico polls

MEXICO CITY—FELIPE CALderon, a conservative from President Vicente Fox's party, was declared Mexico's next president on Tuesday by the nation's highest electoral court, officially ending a bitterly contested election that has polarized the country.

Though the decision settled legal challenges to the most contested election in Mexican history, it did not put an end to the political crisis that has gripped the country since voters went to the polls here on July 2. Calderon's first challenge as president will be to defuse the anger of leftists who believe the election was fraudulent.

It will be difficult. The losing candidate, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, the former mayor of Mexico City, refused to recognize Calderon's victory. He has threatened to continue a campaign of mass protests and civil disobedience to thwart the new president's ability to govern.

"I will not recognize anyone who parades himself as the head of the federal government without any legitimate or democratic credentials," he told supporters in Mexico City on Tuesday.

Lopez Obrador also plans to hold a national convention this month to set up an alternative government, putting himself and his followers on a collision course with the new government. Calderon will take office Dec. 1.

Appearing before supporters at his party headquarters at the same time, Calderon reached out to his former adversaries and said that their best proposals would become part of his plan for the nation. "For my part, there will always be an open hand and an open door to dialogue," he said.

He also said that the divisions in the country had blinded people to the real enemies of Mexico, among them poverty and inequality. *New York Times News Service*

A PARSI woman walks past figures of "knights," guardians of a fire temple on the occasion of Navroze—the Parsi New Year in Mumbai, Aug. 20. Parsis are Indian followers of Zoroastrianism. AFP

Zoroastrians fear their religion is nearing an end

BURR RIDGE, ILL.—IN HIS day job, Kersey H. Antia is a psychologist. In his private life, Antia dons a white robe, slips a veil over his face and officiates as a Zoroastrian priest, performing rituals passed down through a patrilineal chain of priests stretching back to ancient Persia.

After a service in which priests fed sticks of sandalwood and pinches of frankincense into a blazing urn, Antia surveyed the Zoroastrian faithful of the Midwest—about 80 people in saris, suits and jeans. "We were once at least 40, 50 million," said Antia, senior priest at the temple in suburban Chicago. "We had reached the pinnacle of glory of the Persian Empire and had a beautiful religious philosophy that governed the Persian kings. Where are we now? Completely wiped out. It pains me to say, in 100 years we won't have many Zoroastrians."

There is a panic among today's Zoroastrians that they are fighting the extinction of their faith, which most scholars say is at least 3,000 years old. Zoroastrianism predates Christianity and Islam; many historians say it influenced those faiths and Judaism, with its doctrines of one God, a dualistic universe of good and evil and a final day of judgment.

While Zoroastrians once dominated an area stretching from what is now Rome and Greece to India and Russia, their global population has dwindled to 190,000 at most, and perhaps as few as 124,000, according to a survey by a journal published by the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America.

The Zoroastrians' mobility and adaptability has contributed to their demographic crisis. They assimilate and intermarry, virtually disappearing into their adopted cultures. And since the faith encourages opportunities for women, many Zoroastrian women are working professionals who have few or no children. *New York Times News Service*

Russia warns vs punitive sanctions against Iran

MOSCOW—HITTING IRAN NOW with sanctions over its nuclear work could drive it "away from the civilized world", a Kremlin official said on Tuesday, in a hint of strong Russian opposition to punitive steps backed by Washington.

China said earlier it still wanted major world powers to negotiate with Iran even after it defied a UN Security Council deadline of Aug. 31 to stop enriching uranium.

The Chinese and Russian stances underlined the obstacles to a US-led push to consider sanctions against Iran this month in the Council, where Beijing and Moscow wield vetoes.

Washington's EU allies, also hesitant about sanctions, were looking to talks this week to explore hints by Iran that it could negotiate over the extent of its nuclear fuel programme, which the West fears is a disguised bid to build atom bombs.

European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana was tentatively expected to meet Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani in Vienna on Wednesday.

But diplomats said the day and venue for the talks could still change and nothing had been finalized by late on Tuesday.

Tehran, the world's fourth largest oil exporter, says its enrichment of uranium is a legal and peaceful programme to meet civilian energy needs. The United States says it is a front for perfecting technology designed to produce nuclear weapons.

"That's our judgment. Now, there's not 100 percent certainty there. We've been wrong in the past with our judgments," Gregory Schulte, US ambassador to the Vienna-based UN watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said on Tuesday.

But, he told reporters, Iran's record of concealing its nuclear work from IAEA inspectors permitted no other conclusion.

"Sanctions are not the end of diplomacy. (But) ... to be successful, diplomacy must now be backed up by sanctions, applied in a graduated fashion and targeting Iran's weapons programme and those who guide it," said Schulte.

Igor Shuvalov, a senior aide to Russian President Vladimir Putin, did not say at a news briefing how Russia might vote in the Council but he issued an unusually detailed defense of Moscow's opposition to sanctions. "We are for using a stick (against Iran) but we do not want to later get hit on the head by that same stick, or that it should hit any of our partners on the head," he said.

"At the moment we have understood that introducing sanctions now or resorting to a military operation could lead to the ... consolidation of the population around the current leadership. In Iran the majority of the population are young people and any careless actions could drive that country away from the civilized world for many decades," Shuvalov said. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Blair set to leave office in 2007

LONDON—Tony Blair will step down as prime minister in July 2007 after more than 10 years leading Britain, a newspaper reported Wednesday after two Cabinet members acknowledged he was likely to leave office next year. Blair intends to resign as leader of the governing Labour party on May 31—triggering a leadership election likely to take around eight weeks, The Sun reported. He would then be replaced as prime minister on July 26, the newspaper said. Blair's office declined to comment on The Sun's report. *AP*

Annan sees lifting of blockade

ALEXANDRIA—Israel should lift its blockade of Lebanon within 48 hours, UN chief Kofi Annan said Tuesday. In Egypt on the latest leg of his whistle-stop tour of the Middle East, Annan was asked by reporters after meeting President Hosni Mubarak if he expected Israel to lift its blockade of Lebanon. "Yes, within 48 hours," he answered. Israel imposed its air and sea blockade on Lebanon shortly after unleashing its 34-day offensive against Hezbollah on July 12, saying it was aimed at preventing the Shiite militants from receiving weapons. *AFP*

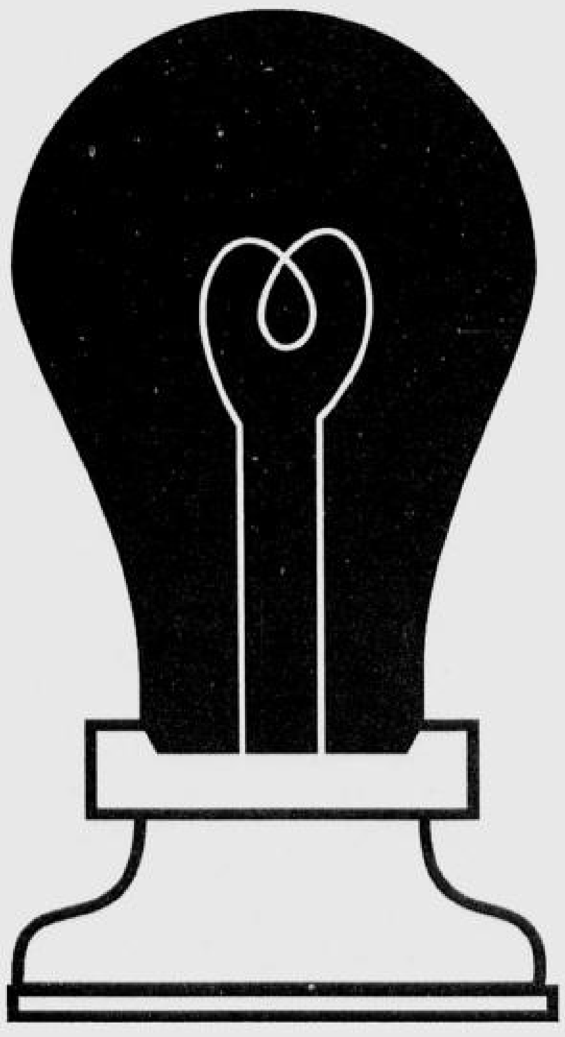
Nato troops kill 60 Talibans

KANDAHAR—Nato-led forces have killed up to 60 Taliban rebels in clashes in southern Afghanistan, an official said Tuesday, amid a visit to the war-torn country by the alliance's leadership. The insurgents were killed attempting to break a security ring near Panjwayi district in Kandahar province, Nato spokesperson Major Quentin Innis told AFP. *AFP*

Palestinian forces join strike

JERUSALEM—Thousands of Palestinian security force members, some firing in the air, marched on the Palestinian parliament building in Gaza City on Tuesday as they joined an expanding strike over wages the Hamas-led government has not paid. Some health care workers also stopped work briefly on Tuesday, and most teachers have stayed away from their classrooms since schools reopened Saturday after the summer break. The security force members said they would return to work on Wednesday. The Hamas government has only been able to make irregular, partial payments to the 175,000 government employees. *New York Times News Service*

Stare at the image for 30 seconds then quickly stare at a blank white surface. What do you see?



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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Crikey!
Welcome to Australia Zoo
STEVE OUR HERO OUR LEGEND OUR WILDLIFE WARRIOR

WREATHS are laid at Australia Zoo in Beewah Sept. 6 after its conservationist patron Steve Irwin died. REUTERS

Diana-like shrine for Crikey

SYDNEY—HUNDREDS OF MOURNERS on Wednesday paid homage to "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin following his shocking on-camera death as his family prepared to reveal details of his funeral.

Staff at Irwin's Australia Zoo in northeastern Queensland state were overwhelmed by the extraordinary global outpouring of grief as a constant stream of stunned fans created a massive shrine of flowers, notes and personal mementos for one of Australia's most famous exports.

"We've been stunned by the public reaction to this tragedy," zoo spokesperson Louise Martin told AFP, adding that the number of well-wishers that has flocked to the zoo since Irwin's death on Monday was in the thousands.

"Crikey! We will miss you," read one note in the sea of tributes at the zoo, reprising the daredevil television naturalist's signature exclamation. The shrine and outpouring of popular grief is being compared by Australian media to the floral shrine created in London after the 1997 death of Princess Diana.

Irwin, 44, was killed on the Great Barrier Reef when the tail barb of a giant stingray punctured his heart when the creature lashed out at him during the filming of an underwater documentary about deadly ocean dwellers.

Irwin, whose daring face-to-face confrontations with all manner of deadly crocodiles, snakes and spiders made him a global media phenomenon, plucked the barb from his chest before collapsing and dying, said his friend and manager John Stainton, who has seen the footage of the deadly attack. *AFP*

Five years after 9/11, US still not safe – Bush

WASHINGTON—FIVE YEARS AFTER THE SEPT. 11 ATTACKS, the United States is safer but "we are not yet safe" from a significantly degraded yet still dangerous al-Qaida threat, the White House said in a report on Tuesday.

A "national strategy for combating terrorism" came as the United States marks soon the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and the Bush administration tries to persuade Americans weary of the Iraq war to return Republicans to control of the US Congress in November elections.

"Since the Sept. 11 attacks, America is safer, but we are not yet safe," the 23-page report concluded.

White House officials denied the report was driven by election-year politics, in which President George W. Bush is accusing Democrats of being soft on terrorism, and said it had been a product of months of work.

It belittles the report, said White House spokesperson Tony Snow, to suggest it was politically driven.

The report covered some well-worn themes such as its prediction that the war on terrorism will last a long time.

Bush was to deliver a speech later on Tuesday on the war on terrorism, the latest in a series of speeches seeking to bolster US support for the Iraq war.

The report, an update of a February 2003 national strategy, said the threat from al-Qaida is "significantly degraded" after the deaths of many of its leaders but that it remains dangerous, five years after al-Qaida followers crashed hijacked airplanes into the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

Al-Qaida would still like to acquire and use weapons of mass destruction and use them to catastrophic effect against targets in the United States and against its allies, the report warned.

White House homeland security adviser Fran Townsend told reporters she was concerned Americans were growing complacent about the threat of terrorism because there has been no large-scale attack in the United States since the events of Sept. 11.

"There should be no question in anybody's mind that they continue to this day to obsess about killing mass amounts of Americans and mass amounts of our allies around the world," she said.

The report makes little mention of Osama bin Laden, the al-Qaida leader-in-hiding, who the Bush administration has never been able to capture or kill. *Reuters*

New breed of al-Qaida flourishes in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD—A NEW GENERATION OF ISlamic militants is using the region where Osama bin Laden masterminded Sept. 11 to plan fresh attacks on the West, officials and analysts say.

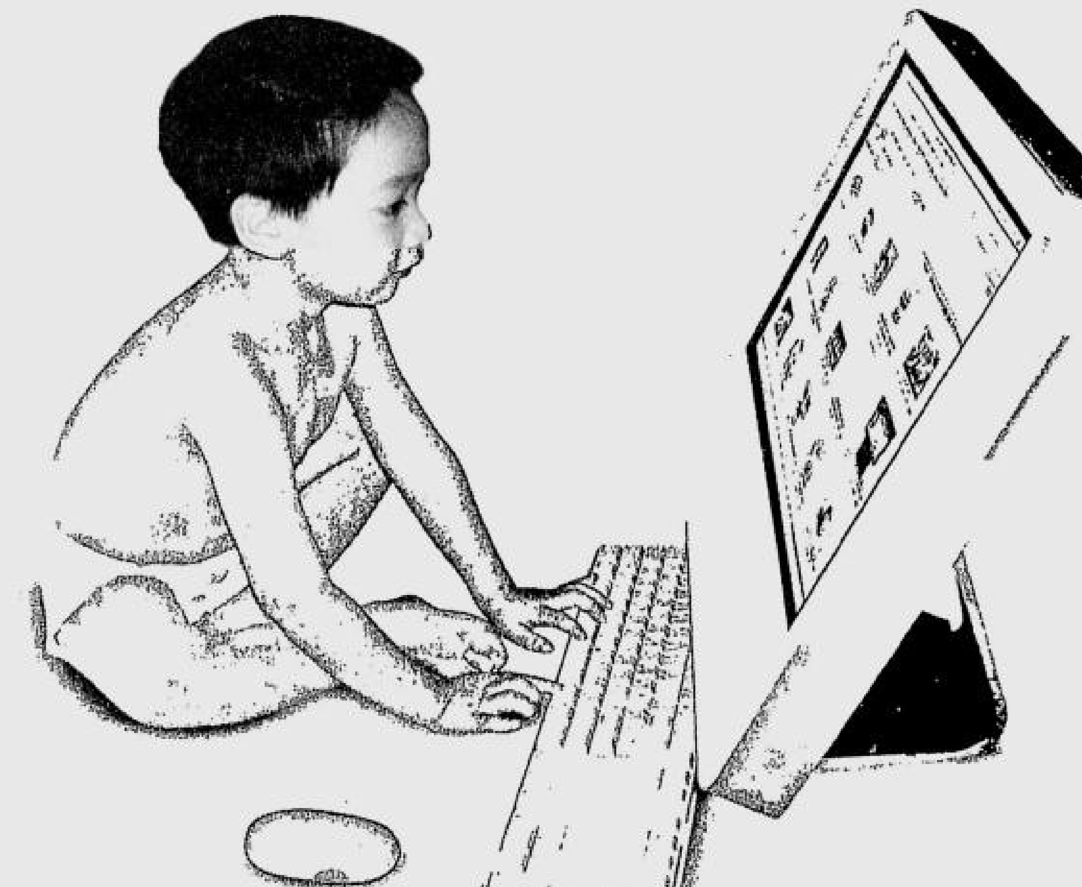
The alleged plot to blow up US-bound airliners from Britain and the July 7, 2005 suicide bombings of London's transport network have both been linked by officials to the al-Qaida network in Pakistan.

In Afghanistan, a wave of violence including suicide bombers from the hardline Taliban regime that once sheltered bin Laden is killing US and Nato soldiers along with scores of civilians.

Almost five years of hunting in the barren mountains that divide the two Islamic republics has wiped out many of his former henchmen but thrown up no hint of the Saudi terror kingpin—while new recruits continue to emerge.

"We have busted gangs plotting terror schemes and most of them have new recruits. These new volunteers are more desperate and dangerous than we have seen previously," a top Pakistani security official told AFP.

"The ouster of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan did destabilize the al-Qaida network but Iraq and now Lebanon are adding to their ranks and violence," another official added on condition of anonymity. *AFP*



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DAY 1 September 14, Thursday
9:00 Registration and Conference Program Overview
9:30 Ribbon Cutting
10:15 Awarding of the 10 Inspiring Technopreneurs
10:45 FORUM 1: "Profiling the Technopreneur" Panelists: Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala (Ayala Corp.), Atty. Felipe Gozon (GMA Network). Moderators: Myla Villanueva (MDI Group Holdings), Joey Concepcion (PCE) & Cito Beltran (ANC)
1:00 FORUM 2: "Broadbanding your Business" Panelists: Ben Colayco (Level Up!), Ray Espinosa (ePLDT), Tunde Falunwa (Bayantel), Judd Gallares (GMA New Media Inc.), Minette Navarrete (Globe Telecom), Ricardo Pronove (GoVida), Dr. Bill Torres (Mozcom), Dennis Valdes (Philweb) Moderators: Dondi Mapa (Dell Philippines) & Ces Drilon (ABS-CBN Broadcasting)*
2:45 FORUM 3: "Growing Money from Trees: Business Opportunities in Biotechnology" Panelists: Dr. Nina Halos (Arnichem Biofertilizers), Jun Lao (Chemrez Biodiesel), Sammy Latay (Elixir Pacific International Corp.), Danny Manayaga (Secura Natural Products) Moderators: Maoi Arroyo (Hybridigm Consulting) & Mari Kaimo (ABS-CBN)

DAY 2 September 15, Friday
10.10 FORUM 4: "Jumpstarting your Tech Venture" Panelists: Domingo Bonifacio (Remec Broadband Wireless), Joey Gurango (Webworks), Martin Lichauco (Walden International Phils), Atty. Christopher Lim (Quisumbing Torres Law Firm), Dennis Mendiola (Chikka Asia), Dennis Posadas (Rice Bowl and Chips Author), Mark Yambot (Microsoft) Moderators: Paco Sandejas (Narra VC) & Pia Hontiveros (ANC)
1:00 Idea Factory Promising technologies/applications from IT companies, researchers and scientists are presented as business opportunities to entrepreneurs, funders and angel investors, in search of mentoring and financial support for incubation, development and next-stage growth. Reactors: Maoi Arroyo (Hybridigm Consulting), Joey Gurango (Webworks), Dickie Gonzalez (PESO); VC/Investor Panel: Martin Lichauco (Walden International Phils.), Guillermo Luchango (ICCP), Paco Sandejas (Narra VC), Myla Villanueva (MDI Group Holdings) Moderators Anthony Pangilinan, Twink Macaraig (ANC)*
2:30 FORUM 5: "Trending Tomorrow: Where Technology Is Taking Us" Panelists: Patrick Aronson (Motorola), Ricky Banaag (Intel), Ernest Cu (SPi Technologies), Tunde Falunwa (Bayantel), Benedict Hernandez (eTelecare Global Solutions), TJ Javier (Microsoft), Butch Jimenez (PLDT), Patricio Pineda (Globe Telecom) Moderators: Anthony Pangilinan, Karen Davila (ABS-CBN)*, and Myla Villanueva (MDI Group Holdings)
6-9 PM Cocktails / Launch of Mentoring Website gonegosyo.net

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A prince is bo

JAPANESE women read extra morning newspaper reporting on the birth of a prince in downtown Tokyo, Sept.6 . AFP

Japanese welcome birth of male heir

TOKYO—JAPAN'S PRINCESS Kiko gave birth to the royal family's first male heir in four decades on Wednesday, easing a succession crisis and quelling a fractious political debate over whether to allow women on the throne.

Kiko, 39, underwent a Caesarean section at a Tokyo hospital, bearing a boy who is third in line to the throne after Crown Prince Naruhito and Kiko's husband, Prince Akishino, 40. No name was immediately announced.

The arrival of a new prince—Emperor Akihito's first grandson—defused a succession crunch in the coming generation of the royal family, which traces its roots back some 1,500 years.

The closely watched birth was also likely to put the brakes on a fractious debate over whether to change Japan's 1947 imperial law to allow women to inherit the throne. Under the current law, only men in an all-male line to the emperor can assume the crown.

While eight women have ruled as emperor over the centuries, the last taking the throne in 1763, they served mostly as placeholders until a suitable male could be found, and none passed the crown to their offspring.

The boy, the first royal male heir born in Japan since Akishino in 1965, was born at 8:27 a.m. and weighed 2,558 grams (5.64 pounds), the Imperial Household Agency said. Both child and mother were in good condition.

The birth took place under intense public scrutiny and expectation. News of Kiko's pregnancy and delivery date led to rallies in shares of baby-care companies amid hopes that other Japanese would be inspired to have more children.

"That's great," gushed Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi when he heard the news.

Kiko, who already had two daughters, was hospitalized on Aug. 16 after showing symptoms of partial placenta previa, in which part of the placenta drops too low in the uterus. Officials, however, said the pregnancy was never in jeopardy.

The gender of the baby had been a closely guarded palace secret, though Japanese tabloids had speculated the child would be a boy—satisfying the hopes of conservative Japanese who want to preserve the male-only imperial line.

"I'm from the old generation, so I think it's better for a boy to become the emperor," said Chioko Hasegawa, a 74-year-old cleaning woman, as she worked in central Tokyo.

The birth follows a tumultuous decade for Japan's royal family, which is still highly respected by the public and is largely shielded from view by the secretive Imperial Household Agency.

Emperor Akihito's eldest son, Naruhito, 46, has a daughter—Aiko, 4—with his wife Masako, but the couple have no sons.

The imperative of producing a male heir may have taken its toll on the Harvard-educated Masako, 42, who gave up a career in diplomacy to marry Naruhito. She suffered a miscarriage in 1999 before Aiko was born, has struggled with stress-induced depression in recent years. *AP*

SPORTS

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Jankovic finally 'graduates'/A24

JAYVEE Agojo: Violation of strict policies

Agojo dropped from Asiad pool

By Jong Arcano

JAYVIE AGOJO HAS BEEN DROPPED FROM the pool training for the Qatar Asian Games and the World Amateur Championships.

The development is not expected to sit well with various golf associations of the country, who are expected to voice their objections today.

A highly reliable source told the INQUIRER yesterday that Agojo, a former Philippine Ladies Open champion who is now playing for the Pepperdine University under a golf scholarship, lost her slot as a disciplinary measure for violations of strict policies of the pool being handled by coach Bong Lopez and funded by business tycoon Ricky Razon of the International Container Terminal Services Inc.

Lopez reportedly e-mailed Agojo of Razon's decision to exclude her from the training several days ago when she already had gone back to the United States after spending her school break here.

According to the same source who asked not to be identified, Razon's decision "was final."

Grounds cited for the exclusion, according to the source, was Agojo's refusal to report to the training pool's quarters in Canlubang, Laguna, and join the official practices and her father's refusal to recognize the pool's no-parents policy.

Lopez is currently in Indonesia with the other members of the team and could not be reached for comment.

Django leads Pinoy assault

RED-HOT FORMER WORLD NO. 1 FRANcisco "Django" Bustamante extended his winning streak to nine games by again sweeping his group in the second round of the International Pool Tour World 8-Ball Open Tuesday at the Grand Sierra Casino and Hotel in Reno, Nevada.

Bustamante and World Cup partner Efren "Bata" Reyes showed the way for eight other Filipinos in the 60-man third round but three of their compatriots fell, including IPT North American runner-up Marlon Manalo.

Also advancing and securing at least $15,000 each were 2004 world 9-ball pool champion Alex Pagulayan, North American IPT third placer Dennis Orcollo, Renato Alcano, Antonio Lining, Ramil Gallego, Jose "Amang" Parica, last-minute qualifier Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat and Canada-based Edwin Montal.

After breezing through his first four assignments in the first round, Manalo could only win one of his five second-round matches and failed to advance along with Warren Kiamco and United States-based Santos Sambajon.

The 43-year-old Bustamante, one of five still undefeated players, made short work of his rivals except for European No. 3 Nick van den Berg of Holland, whom he nipped, 8-7.

Bustamante earlier dumped Carl Morris, Ben Nunan and Tang Hoa by similar 8-2 scores and Chu Hung Ming, 8-5.

The other unscathed players in the $3-million tournament were former world 9-ball pool champion Mika Immonen, former US Open champion Gabe Owen, Mick Hill and Karl Boyes.

After sweeping his first round group with ease, Reyes finished with a 3-2 record this time, but advanced as the No. 2 qualifier in his bracket by virtue of a superior tiebreak points over Fabio Petroni of Italy and Allison Fisher of England.

Orcollo topped his group with a 4-1 record which Lining and Montal matched in their respective brackets. Gallego advanced with a 3-2 card that included an 8-5 win over compatriot Manalo.

Pagulayan, Alcano and Parica also posted 3-2 records in qualifying to the next round while Luat stayed alive despite a 2-3 slate by finishing with the higher tiebreak points over two others.

Except for Bustamante and Pagulayan who found themselves in Group 65 in the third round, the other RP survivors were evenly scattered among the 11 other brackets. As in the first two rounds, the top three from each group will advance.

The other heavyweights who fell by the wayside after the second round were three-time world champ Earl "The Pearl" Strickland and Mike Sigel of the US, Yvgeny Stalev of Russia and reigning world 9-ball pool champion Wu Chia-ching of Taiwan. *Marlon Bernardino*

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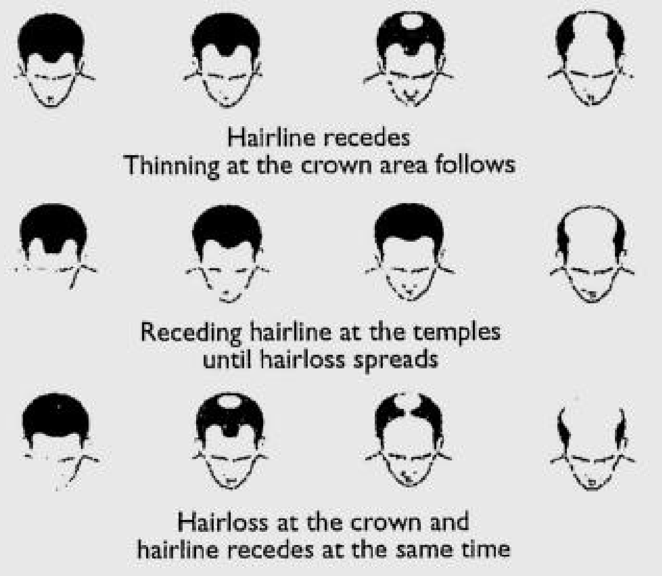

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Thinning at the crown area follows
Receding hairline at the temples
until hairloss spreads
Hairloss at the crown and
hairline recedes at the same time

PBA: No pros for Asiad

By June Navarro

DON'T EXPECT THE stars of the Philippine Basketball Association to don the national colors in the Asian Games.

The league's board of governors yesterday stood firm on an earlier decision to keep its stars out of the Doha, Qatar Asiad in December even if the suspension of the Fiba (International Basketball Federation) is lifted.

"The board reiterated its commitment to the national team but regrets that the league cannot participate in the Asian Games," said commissioner Noli Eala after the board's emergency meeting where some rule changes were approved in time for the opening of its 32nd season on Oct. 1.

"It runs consistent with our agreement (with the BAP) that the PBA would participate in the Asian qualifiers of the world championships and the Olympics. The Asian Games, however, is not part of that commitment and it was agreed upon with finality," he added.

The pro league had taken care of fielding the RP five to the Asian Games since 1990, but was focused on the Olympic qualifier following a change in its format in 2004.

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STANDINGS	W	L
*Ateneo	9	1
*Univ of East	7	4
Santo Tomas	6	6
Adamson	5	6
Far Eastern	5	6
Univ of Phils	4	8
National	3	8

*clinched twice-to-beat in the Final Four

GAMES TODAY
(Philsports Arena)
2 p.m.—NU vs Adamson (Srs)
4 p.m.—FEU vs Ateneo (Srs)

Falcons, Tamaraws seek crucial victories today

WITH THEIR SEMIFINAL CHANCES still uncertain, it's all business for the Far Eastern Tamaraws and the Adamson Falcons on the penultimate day of the UAAP men's basketball elimination round.

"Everything that we worked for in the last six months will all boil down to our last game," said Adamson coach Leo Austria.

The Falcons will face the unpredictable National Bulldogs at 2 p.m., while the Tamaraws will battle the top-ranked Ateneo Eagles at 4 p.m. today at the Philsports Arena.

Victories by Adamson and FEU will forge a three-way tie with the Santo Tomas Tigers at 6-6. In this scenario, the team with the highest quotient will automatically claim the third spot. The bottom two teams will fight for the last Final Four berth in a knockout match.

FEU currently leads the tie-break computations.

If the Falcons and the Tamaraws lose, the Tigers will automatically secure third place, leaving the other two to dispute the last spot in a winner-take-all game.

"This is very important for us," said FEU mentor Bert Flores. "Our defensive game is already there, but our players must show the heart, the desire to win."

If Adamson wins in the first game, FEU cannot afford to drop its match versus Ateneo. Otherwise, the Tamaraws will become the first defending champion to miss the Final Four since the format was introduced in 1994.

But the Eagles—who have secured the twice-to-beat bonus along with the second-ranked University of the East Warriors—have no plans of taking it easy.

"FEU needs the game very badly, so we're expecting tough competition," said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "But even if we qualified for the top two slots and we're already in, we think it's very important to have momentum going into the Final Four. So we'll definitely come out and play hard."

The Tamaraws, though, showed that they can match up with the Eagles well.

Paced by Jeff Chan, the Tamaraws only lost by a slim 76-74 decision against the league leaders in the first round.

The Falcons will try to keep their semifinal chances alive behind Ken Bono after a 77-74 setback against the Tigers last Sunday.

Jasmine W. Payo

La Salle girls left to finish sweep drive

LA SALLE GOT THE JOB DONE EARLY IN three divisions and left its bets in the girls high school-college to complete the sweep mission after the second round yesterday of the Samsung Interscholastic Golf championships at the North and South Course of Canlubang Golf & Country Club in Laguna.

Miko Yee and Allan Guy powered La Salle Greenhills to a 31-point lead in boys high school, La Salle-Taft remained on top by 21 in boys college and La Salle Greenhills banked on Miggy Yee and AR Ramos to pad its lead to 22 in the boys grade school.

Geleen Handog and Jyra Wong put La Salle on the brink of a second sweep in three years when they held on to a two-point lead over a resurgent School of Tomorrow in the combined high school-college girls division.

Handog carded 56 and Wong made 54 for 110 and a two-day total of 208 but School of Tomorrow remained in the fight after Regine de Guzman shot a tournament-best 58 points and Sunshine Baraquiel added 51 for 109 and a 206 aggregate.

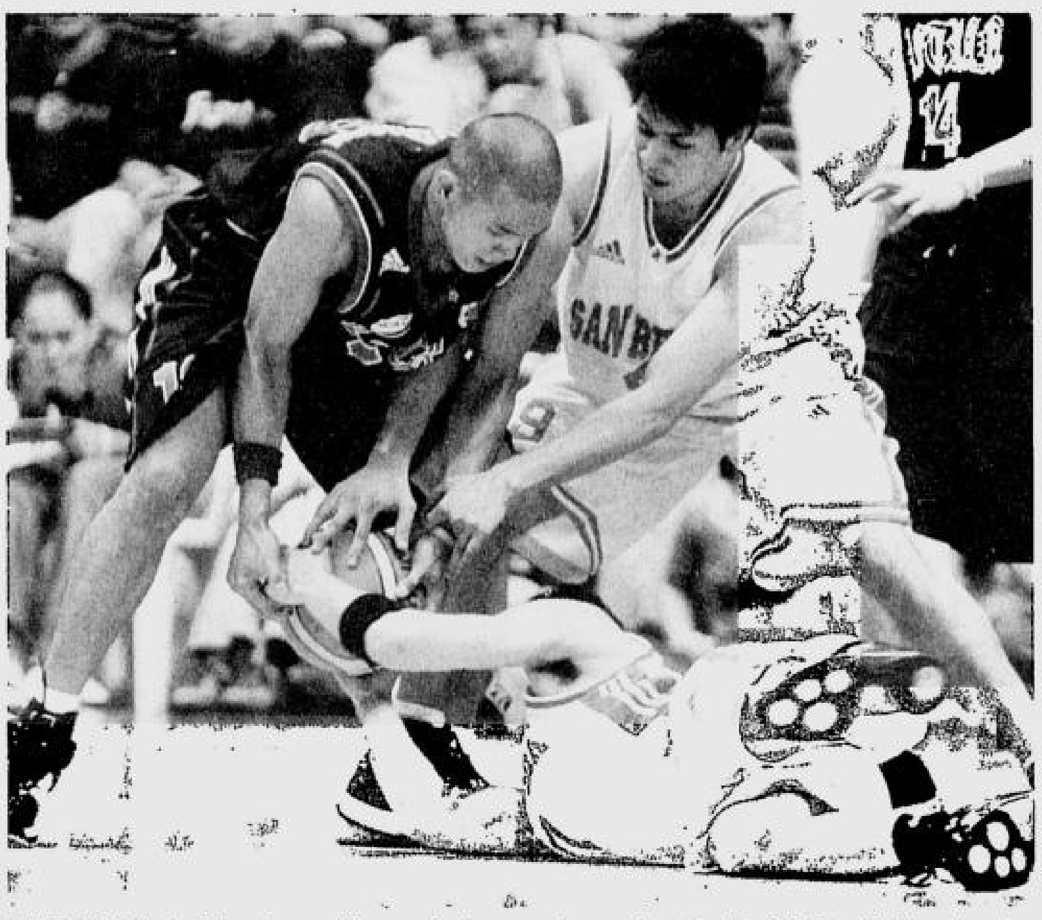
With the team titles in the bag, La Salle's frontliners shift their focus on the individual titles in today's final round action of the tourney co-sponsored by KZG, Custom Clubmakers, Sunbolt, C-Lium Fibre, Taylormade, Titleist, Microtel inn & Suites.

Miko Yee got his swing in the groove to shoot 53 and bolstered his drive for a third consecutive overall individual title. He leads teammate Allan Guy, who made 52, by three with a 104 total. Ateneans Marcel Puyat (98) and Gabe Villareal (94) occupy the next two places.

Miggy Yee (46-88) was up by three over Ramos (45-88) in boys grade school while Handog (56-108) stayed in front by four over de Guzman in her division.

Ateneo's chance of averting a shutout will rest on Don Padilla, who seized a one-stroke lead in the boys college individual but will have a horde of challengers from La Salle. He shot 49 for 98, one ahead of Chuckie Hong and Marco Olives.

The Masters Academy had the girls elementary title all locked up after padding its lead to 51. Maan Legaspi scored 51 and Sunmi Hwang tallied 41 to also give Masters Academy the top two places in individual action.


LETRAN'S Hafer Mondragon disputes ball possession against San Beda's Yousif Aljamal and Alexander Angeles in their game yesterday. RYAN LIM

Lions push Knights to kayo match

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SAN BEDA, the elimination topnotcher, managed just two points in the second quarter but defending champion Letran fared only a little better with five in the same stretch.

When the Lions finally hit their stride, they roared to a 54-44 victory which they really did not need, but stalled the Knights' bid for the twice-to-beat bonus yesterday in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

With their fourth loss in 10 games, the Knights wound up tied with the PCU Dolphins, sending both teams to a one-game knockout for the No. 2 spot behind the Lions.

San Beda finished with a league-best 13-1 win-loss record.

Not that Letran did not try.

The Knights held the Red Lions to just two points to take a 26-14 lead at halftime.

But the Lions proved unstoppable in the second half as they underscored their worth as the strong favorite for the title.

If Letran loses in the playoff, it will yield the twice-to-beat edge to the Dolphins and will have to win twice to advance to the finals.

Yousif Aljamal, Alex Angeles and Pong Escobal engineered a 17-0 Lions run that left the Knights winded. In the midst of that rally, Letran coach Louie Alas lost his cool and stormed into the court protesting the unsportsmanlike foul called on Rafael Jazul on a driving Escobal. Alas was slapped a double technical, while the San Beda bench was also given a technical on its own.

Earlier, the Dolphins made sure they stay alive for the twice-to-beat incentive by beating Mapua, 75-65, in the first seniors game.

STANDINGS	W	L
*San Beda	12	1
**Letran	10	3
**PCU	10	4
**Mapua	7	7
Perpetual	5	9
Jose Rizal U	4	10
SSC-R	4	10
St. Benilde	3	11

*Clinched twice-to-beat
**Clinched Final Four

GAMES TOMORROW
(Araneta Coliseum)
2 p.m. Cheering competitions
4 p.m. Letran vs PCU (playoffs)

The scores:

SECOND GAME (srs)

PCU 75—Castro 20, Espinas 18, Navarro 13, Belga 8, Santos 6, Garrido 5, Chien 3, Amparado 2, David 0, Hermosa 0.

MAPUA 65—Co 22, Guillermo 12, Tiongco 8, Mazo 7, Del Rosario 6, Pascual J 3, Dela Pena 3, Pascual N 2, Acosta 2, Sumalinog 0, Migraso 0, Palomique 0.

Quarters: 24-12, 44-25, 63-49, 75-65.

THIRD GAME (srs)

SAN BEDA 54—Aljamal 14, Escobal 12, Menor 6, Tecson 6, Maggay 6, Ekwe 4, Angeles 4, Gamalinda 2, Evangelista 0, Taganas 0.

LETRAN 44—Bautista 20, Balneg 8, Aban 4, Jazul 2, Realista 2, Mondragon 2, Faundo 2, Daa 2, Melegrito 2, Quinday 0, Dangcal 0.

Quarters: 12-21, 14-26, 27-35, 54-44.

Juvic joins Singapore tilt

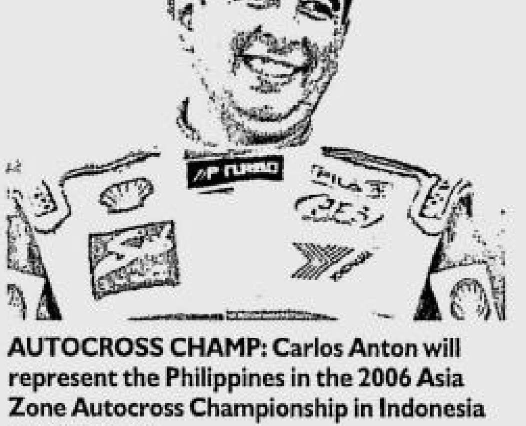
ROOKIE PRO JUVIC PAGUNSAN JOINS THE eminent Frankie Miñoza as top Philippine bets in the $3 million Barclays Singapore Open, the Asian Tour's richest tournament, which starts today at the Serapong course of the Sentota Golf Club.

With a tie for third and a deadlock for 20th in his last two tournaments, Pagunsan tries to prove his worth against a crack field that includes eight of the top players in the world led by South African star Ernie Els and defending champion Adam Scott of Australia.

Joining Pagunsan and Miñoza, who is taking timeout from his stint in the rich Japanese circuit, are 2004 Vietnam champion Angelo Que, Asian Tour regular Gerald Rosales and Tony Lascuña, one of five survivors of Tuesday's qualifying round.

Els, who is looking for his first win of the year, arrived in Singapore on Sunday to prepare early for Asia's richest national Open while Scott planed in only Wednesday.

The other attractions are New Zealand's Michael Campbell, the 2005 US Open champion; and European Ryder Cup players Lee Westwood and Paul McGinley.


AUTOCROSS CHAMP: Carlos Anton will represent the Philippines in the 2006 Asia Zone Autocross Championship in Indonesia on Sept. 9-10.

Cyna shares lead

JAKARTA — JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPION CYNA Rodriguez shot a three-over par 75 to gain a share of the lead with local bet Lydia Jaya after two rounds of the 28th Indonesia Ladies Amateur Open at the Padang Golf Pondok Indah Golf Club here yesterday. The 14-year-old Rodriguez, playing out of the Ecole de Mont Michel School, posted a 153 total with Jaya heading into the final round of the 54-hole tournament. The duo posted a one-stroke lead over Agnes Sudjasmin, the reigning Asean Junior champion who carded a 76 for a 154. Bambee dela Paz, who with Anya Tanpinco started the round just a stroke of the Indòn troika of Ines Tjiptadi, Andani and Juriah with a 77, fumbled with a 78 and slipped to joint fourth with a rallying Dottie Ardina at 155, two strokes off the pace. Ardina fired a 76 to wheel back in contention for the title in the individual competition.

Hupner rules Hold'em tilt

ANGELES CITY BET STEVE HUPNER topped the recent Angeles Hold'em Challenge at the Casino Filipino-Angeles in Balibago, Pampanga.

The locals actually dominated the qualifying leg as three other players from card game hotbed Angeles City advanced to the Grand Finals of the Million-Peso Hold'em Philippine Championship.

Local heroes Elmira Wagas, Jimmy Bundalian and John Santos finished second, third and fourth, respectively, to join Hupner in the Grand Finals slated on Dec. 16-17 at the Casino Filipino-Pavilion in Manila.

Mauro Flores was the lone player from Manila who survived the cut and earned a seat in the main draw.

The Angeles Hold'em Challenge Part II is set on Oct. 8. More leg/satellite competitions are scheduled at the other Casino Filipino sites nationwide.

For details, visit www.PhilippinePokerTour.com or call 817-9092 or 812-0153.

Adidas KOTR lures 1,500 bets

THE ADIDAS KING OF THE ROAD RACE SET for Sept. 17 at the Mall of Asia in Pasay City has so far attracted 1,500 entries who have been issued running singlets and race bibs.

More runners and running clubs are expected to beat the deadline on Sept. 14. Race director Rudy Biscocho expects to draw 2,000 participants.

Registration is still ongoing at No. 51 Annapolis St. in Greenhills. No registration will be entertained on race day.

At stake for the winners are cash prizes, medals, trophies and gift packages from Globe, Cherifer Multivitamins, Snickers Chocolate Bar, Powerade, Viva Mineral Water, Blue Angel Alcohol and Adidas Eyewear.

Aside from the P20,000 cash purse each for the Adidas King and Queen of the Road, the organizers will also give prizes for the winners in the age-group events and the inter-club competition where Direct Link is the defending champion.

The 10K race will commence at 6 a.m. on Seaside Drive in front of the IMAX theatre of the Mall of Asia. The route takes the runners to Seaside Dr. Blvd. and EDSA Ext.

The defending champions are national athletes Julius Sermona and Christabel Martes.

Naascu lets Bay Cats to stay in the league

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL IN the young and vibrant National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities.

This developed after the league agreed to let San Sebastian-Cavite to stay despite infractions it has committed against the league, mainly its decision to default five games in the second round, according to Naascu president Dr. Ernest Jay Adalem.

In exchange, SSC-Cavite president Fr. Emil Jaruda agreed to pay P12,000 in penalties for forfeiting five games in the seniors and one game in the juniors division.

The Bay Cats, first placers in the first round, will also resume the second round holding an 8-6 record at fourth place.

"The good thing that happened here is that everybody was thinking about the good of the league," said Adalem, who met for three hours with Jaruda and the other league board members.

Jaruda, said Adalem, also offered apologies on behalf of the Bay Cats, who will also lose head coach Egay Macaraya for the rest of the season.

Macaraya was slapped the suspension for punching AMA Computer's Jun Gabica during their game at the New Era Gym. That decision sparked the rift between the school and the league and started SSC-R Cavite's long absence in the games.

Team effort key to NCR booters' success

NCR women's team jubilate. Inset is coach Hans Smit.

TAKE A SEASONED COACH WITH TRIED and tested motivational skills and put in a bunch of funky yet unselfish players willing to play their roles and obey his instructions to the letter.

What you have are the National Capital Region side which went on an amazing six-game run en route to clinching the National Women's Football Championship in Dumaguete City recently.

With only 16 players in the lineup, the squad composed of La Salle, Ateneo, FEU and UST mainstays, held their own against bigger and more experienced teams.

Credit that to Hans Smit, La Salle's multi-titled varsity coach, who played a key role in whipping them into a cohesive, skillful unit.

The NCR booters also showed poise, especially in dethroning two-time defending champion Davao. In a semifinal match, NCR held Davao to a 1-1 draw in regulation before winning, 3-1, in a penalty shootout.

Against host Negros Oriental in the finals, NCR played a well-paced tactical game en route to an emphatic 3-1 triumph which even the hometown crowd appreciated.

Smit cited the "intelligence" and team effort of his players in bagging the title, adding that it would not have been possible without the unstinting support of the National Capital Region Football Association and sponsors GNC, DHL, International Pipes Specialists, Cebuana Lhuillier and Burlington.

"I drilled them on my system in Manila before we left for Dumaguete and they absorbed it right away," Smit said.

Superkarting goes to Cebu

THE SHOWDOWN BETWEEN MARLON Stockinger of Birel Motorsports and Matteo Guidicelli of Alessandra Racing gets more intense as the 2006 Shell Superkarting Series goes to Cebu for its seventh leg this weekend at the Kart Zone. Following his runner-up finish at the Enchanted Kingdom, Stockinger wrested solo leadership from Guidicelli in both the premiere Formula 125 and the Rotax Max Seniors class. Stockinger amassed a total of 346 points in the Formula 125, giving him a 31-point lead over Guidicelli who dropped to second with 315. He also holds 371 points in the Rotax Max Seniors class, a 39-point margin over Guidicelli's 332. But Guidicelli eyes a big comeback on his hometown track to give his title bid a big push. Daniel Cleak and Indy Villalon of Birel and Jean Stefano Marcelo of Marcelo Racing are also hoping to bolster their bids.

Roach sees Pacquiao on top of tough fight

PACQUIAO

EVERY SECOND OF THE FIGHT is going to be tough. Every minute. Until, of course, Manny Pacquiao puts an end to it.

That's how Freddie Roach sees the third installment of a boxing trilogy featuring the Filipino ring sensation and Mexican icon Erik "El Terrible" Morales Nov. 18 in Las Vegas.

"We will get [Morales] before the 12th round," Roach said in an interview with FightFan.com. Monday. "We're going to stop him at some point in the fight, but it will be tough the whole way up to that point."

Pacquiao and Morales square off for the third time hoping to decide once and for all who between the two boxing superstars is the best.

Morales decisioned Pacquiao the first time the two warriors met while Pacquiao got back in their second meeting, knocking the Mexican down for the first time in the latter's career to end the fight in 10.

Team Pacquiao is no longer worried about the weight issues surrounding Morales. Aside from the financial stipulations that will reward Pacquiao if Morales goes overweight, Roach believes the Mexican is going to check in within the 130-lb limit when the weigh-in is held.

"The one thing I will say about Morales despite all the talk about it, is that he has made weight for both fights," said the American trainer. "I know he's heavy but he's always made weight and been a professional about it so we expect he'll do the same for this fight."

Pacquiao is currently conditioning himself in General Santos City, doing a lot of road work to get himself in shape for the Morales bout, but he is expected to be in the United States Sept. 12 and watch the match between Marco Antonio Barrera and Rocky Juarez Sept. 16.

Barrera is also in Pacquiao's radar but everything is up to the result of the matches of both fighters.

"It sets up a possible rematch with Barrera if he beats Juarez," Roach told the popular boxing website.

But Pacquiao's mind is focused totally on Morales at this point.

"Well you know the thing is he wants to prove to the world it was no fluke when he beat Morales and that he'll do it again," Roach told FightFan. *Francis Ochoa*

Pichay hits back at GMs

"THE PLAYERS HAVE NO RIGHT TO DICTATE ON THEIR ASSOCIAtion."

Thus said National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) president Congressman Prospero "Butch" Pichay yesterday in response to the joint statement made by the country's top three grandmasters—Eugene Torre, Mark Paragua and Rogelio Antonio Jr.

Reacting to the open letter by three GMs which was sent to various newspapers on Tuesday, Pichay said the NCFP has all the rights to set the guidelines in the selection of the players it will send to various international competitions abroad.

"As players, they should always follow the rules of the association," said Pichay, who felt slighted that the three GMs decided to ventilate their grievances directly to the media instead of consulting their officials.

Pichay also felt bad that the three GMs decided to boycott the tournament, thus depriving the country's young players the opportunity to play them in a top-caliber tournament.

"I felt sad for our young players, who missed this opportunity to play against our top-rated players simply because they (GMs) do not agree to the system being used by the NCFP," added Pichay.

Pichay's reaction came after Torre, Paragua and Antonio lashed out at the NCFP for choosing the Swiss System of elimination in the selection of the country's three representatives to the coming Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, on Dec. 1-15.

In their press statement, the three GMs branded the Swiss system as "flawed and demeaning to our stature as the country's highest-rated GMs."

The three dramatized their protest to the system adapted by the NCFP by boycotting the ongoing 11-round qualifying tournament to the Doha Asiad being held at the SM Mall of Asia.

Also yesterday, GM Nelson Mariano and several international masters defended the NCFP and the system being used to determine the country's representatives to various international competitions.

THE COUNTRY'S rising stars defended the NCFP decision to adopt the Swiss System format in a press conference yesterday. Seated from left: NCFP director Willie Abalos, GM Nelson Mariano II, IM Oliver Dimakiling and IM Barlo Nadera; standing, from left: FM Wesley So, IM Darwin laylo, IM Ronald Dableo, IM Richard Bitoon and NM John Paul Gomez.

Bitoon paces elims

INTERNATIONAL MASTER RICHard Bitoon beat three-time national junior champion John Paul Gomez to gain a share of the lead with IM Yves Ranola in the eighth round of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines qualifying tournament at the SM Mall of Asia.

The 30-year-old Bitoon, who earned his IM title in the Asian Zonals in Vietnam in 2000, raised his record to seven points in the 11-round tournament which ends Friday.

Ranola settled for a draw with fellow IM Oliver Dimakiling.

GM Nelson Mariano also halved the point with NM Rolando Nolte to move into a share of third to seventh places with 6.5 points.

Also with the same score are Barlo Nadera, Arlan Cabe and Dimakiling.

Nadera bested NM Ronald Llavanes, while Cabe whipped fellow NM Alex Milagrosa.

Cordillera Open champion NM Mirabeau Maga and NM Ronald Dableo also halved the point to lead a big group of players with 5.5 points.

SPORTSWATCH

Bernardino cops 2nd in Palau

KOROR, PALAU—FILIPINO AND UNITED STATES CHESS MASTER ALMARIO Marlon Bernardino Jr. finished second in the first 2006 Palau International Chess Championships Monday at the Palasia Hotel here. The 29-year-old Bernardino split the point with 3rd placer Paul Spiller and eventual winner Hilton Bennett of New Zealand in the last two rounds of the event organized and sponsored by Gary Bekker of Australia, the Oceania Fide president. Bennett finished with 7 points while Bernardino accumulated 6.5 points on four wins and five draws. Spiller totaled 6 points in the event held, in cooperation with Knights and Rook Chess Club chair Roberto Hernandez, Palau Chess Federation chair Francis Temaungil, Manny Kimpo of Pinoy Express, Jean's Boutique of Aurora Digal-Pastrana and Philippine Ambassador Ramoncito Marino. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

104 fights at Roligon today

POL ESTRELLADO, TONY LASALA AND BENJIE LIM OF THE GENTLEMEN Cockers Association of the Philippines lead the qualifiers in today's finale of RAY Showdown 6-stag derby at Roligon Mega Cockpit. The first of 104 matches starts at 2 p.m. They have three points each going in today's round. Also with wins are William Ong (D' Legend), Henry So (Hi-Ace Sly), Mayor Boy Austria (Triple J) and Ronnie Ong and Rey Acop (Pink Panther). The event has a prize of P1 million with Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone as sponsors. The Stag Festival 5-stag derby of host Rolly Ligon comes on Sept. 26, 28 and 30 with P1.5 million at stake. A prize of P250,000 awaits the champion. Reservation of cockhouses is open.

Super Pacman derby set Saturday

ALL ROADS LEAD TO MAKATI COLISEUM ON SATURDAY AS BOXING IDOL Manny Pacquiao presents the Super Pacman 5-stag derby, an explosive gathering of the country's leading cockers and gamefowl breeders. Sponsor is B-Meg Derby Ace. Metro Manila's derby promoters decided to reset their scheduled events and join the event which offers a prize of P1 million. Meanwhile, five participants ruled the PCAP 5-stag derby Monday night: Boy Marzo and Kabu Taniguchi (Kabu Sabongworld), Efren Canlas (Bacolor Gold), Gen-gen Arayata (Hungry Rabbit), Gov. Tony Kho and Rey Briones (TRB Masbate) and Flood Gold Wings entry.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/TRi)—Jade Express (4), Leica N' Raven (3), Brown Bomber (1), Kalbigan (6)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Top Of D'Line (7), Batang Westside (8), deity (2), Refreshing (4)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Good Landing/Earl Gray (4), Zubaida (2), Alyaam (2), Refreshing (4)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Coquette (7), Bobom Lancer (5), BMI Baby (6), Go Go Eigene (3), Do Re Mi (9)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Artic Desert (4), Staunch Ally (6), Lord Of All (1), Virginia (5)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Karma (2), Lucky Joe (4), Cara Dura (6), U Are My Sunshine (5)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Military Might (7), T-Mac (2), Allysa's Choice/Kay Akino (3), Iron Tower (5), Moromai (12)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Yankee Clipper (10), Napa Valley (5), Expediter (6), Rebound (1), Il Formosa (2), Bold Lucky (6)

Basketball panel tackles rough draft tomorrow

By Francis Ochoa

THE LAW FIRM TASKED BY THE three-man panel that will create the new national sports association (NSA) for basketball has already submitted a rough draft of a constitution consolidated from two separate by-laws, a source told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The three-man panel, headed by Smart and PLDT honcho Manny V. Pangilinan, will meet tomorrow to discuss the first draft, lending credence to previous announcement that the backbone of the new national sports association for basketball will be finalized before Sept. 15.

The rough draft is a unified version of the constitutions of the Basketball Association of the Philippines and the Pilipinas Basketball.

The INQUIRER contacted the SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan firm law firm, but the lead counsel handling the crafting of the constitution, lawyer Marivic Añonuevo, was in a late meeting and could not take calls.

No copy of the rough draft was made available, although the source said that it attempted to put a common language into the four major ticklish issues in which both constitutions clashed.

These issues—general membership, board composition, term of office and the power of the national congress—are expected to be discussed when the panel makes amendments to the rough draft.

PB president Bernie Ateinza said the panel will study the charter authored by the firm and "after approving it, will submit it to the general membership for ratification."

"From there, it will be submitted to the POC and the Fiba," Atienza added. The problem is there is still no idea as to who will comprise the general membership yet.

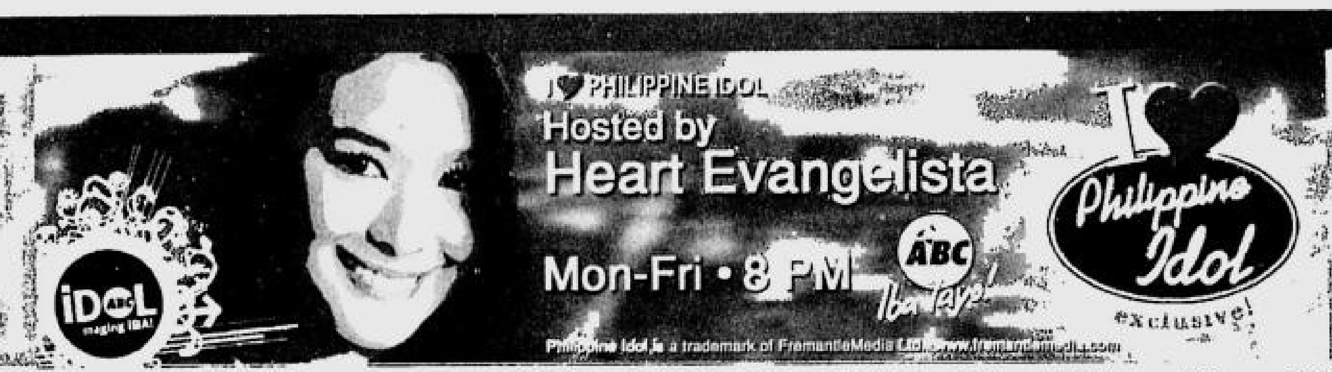
"The panel will decide on that first before it passes the charter for resolution," said the INQUIRER source. *With reports from Marc Anthony Reyes*

MAKATI FITNESS RUN. Makati residents trooped to Barangay East Rembo Sunday to take part in the Win Joggers Club, a weekly activity organized by civic leader Erwin "Win" Genuino (foreground). Organized by Genuino's Welfare Integration network (WIN) and the Tropang G non-governmental organizations, the activity aims to provide Makati residents a free and entertaining venue to keep fit and strong.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Thursday September [illegible] 2006



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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				Legend Of Shaolin Kung Fu	Mon Colle Night	Sentro Headlines	Letty La Mas Fea		Doble Cara		Philippine Idol Exclusive	S.O.S		Shorts		Big News	Worst Case Scenario	Philippine Idol Exclusive
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Yakitate Japan/ Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Calla Lily	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Inggo	Bituing Walang Ningning	Pinoy Dream Academy	A Love To Kill		Bandila	SOCO	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		CSI: Miami (Season 4)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Samsung Sports World	Alias (Season IV)		The Amazing Race (Season IX)		Fear Factor (Season VI)		The Contender (Season II)		Supernatural (Season I)		Hex (Season 2)	
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Max Steel	Robotboy	Mirumo De Pon	Pokemon: Johto Journey	Dia/ Justirisers	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King
Cinemax		Torque (2:50 PM)		Murder 101 (4:15 PM)				The Blues Brothers				Past Midnight			Dead Birds (9:40 PM)			The Italian Job (11:10PM)	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	Global Challenges	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Psychic Detectives	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Bones		Treasure Hunters		E-Ring	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-talkative Bunny	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Monster Allergy	Lizzie Mcguire	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN				Nfl's Greatest Moments		Pro Billiards '06 Enjoypool.com Women's Open 9-ball C'ships		Women's Pro Billiards '06 WPBA Midwest Classic		Weetabix Women's British Open Day3		Sportscenter Asia		Sportscenter Asia	Pool Snooker World Pool League '03 Poland		Pool Snooker World Pool League '03 Poland		Sportscenter Asia
ETC		American Dreams		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Will & Grace 4	Friends 10	Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen (Degeneres) Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Nanny 911		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Cenacle Of Divine Mercy	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Virtue Storybook	Truth In The Heart	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	The Sacraments Through The Ages	Special Programming		EWTN Live (Encore) With Fr. Mitch Pacwa		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Seven Sacraments	Images of Mary	Behold the Man, Spirituality for Men	The Journey Home Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Panbabago (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Majika		I Luv NY (8:50 PM)	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Magpakailanman			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B. Eye		Mcleod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Family Law		Spooks		Wire In The Blood		Regenesis	
HBO			Love At First Bite (3:45 PM)				Against The Ropes				The Karate Dog			Without A Paddle			American Flyers (10:40PM)		
Hero TV	Amdriver	Angelic Layer	Duel Masters	Super Gals	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar The Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	BDaman Bakugaiden	Beyblade G-Revolution	Amdriver	Angelic Layer	Naruto
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Ams		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Ams	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Smackdown				X-Men	The Batman	Experience		Mad TV		That 70s Show	Just For Laughs	Distraction	Banzai	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Get Color	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	At Home With	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Food 911	Who's Wedding Is It Anyway?		Good Finds	Martha		Your Private Island	Genuine Article	E! True Hollywood Story	
MTV Philippines		Punk'd	Laguna Beach	Handpicked The Dawn	MTV Hits					Get Spotted	Ultrasound The Dawn	TRL		Punk'd	Laguna Beach	Rex in the City	Sessions Kyla	VMA 06: All Eyes On Beyonce	Rockola
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX News	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		MYX Bandarito	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic	Monkey Business	National Geographic Specials		Megastructures		Naked Science Roman Technology		Top 5 - Dangerous Encounters	Top 5 - Dangerous Encounters	WOW! Bug Attack: Venom Wars		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Megastructures: Denmark to Sweden		Naked Science: Colliding Continents	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alsp.			Dyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Siya?	Teledyaryo W/ Ray Langit & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Daang Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Daang Daan		Ang Pagbubuyag		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Auto Motor Sport
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants/ Right On Top/Hi 5/Magical Treasure/Wayside	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Pangarap Na Ginto				Ang Nanay Ni Brenda				Lucio Margallo				Enat Kong Forgets				She Walks By Night
Qtv	Love Revolution	Shaman King	Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene		Sorry I Love You		Family Zoo		News On Q	Women's Desk		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The 4400		Medium		Invasion		Newswatch Now	Just For Laughs	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Friends Again		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports						WNCAA		2006 FIBA World Champ Games SF2				WNBA Finals Game 4				Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	Beach Volleyball: FIVB Men's- Russia	
Sports Plus		U.S. Open '06 QFinal								Grand Prix de Paris				World Game		Auto Focus		U.S. Open '06 Day 11 Men's/ Women's QFinal	
Star Movies	Control			Tuck Everlasting (4:15 PM)			Mr. 3000 (5:45 PM)				Shark Zone			Elektra			The Triangle - Ep 01		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Rockstar: Supernova		The Office	Arrested Development	The Drew Carey Show	Sons & Daughters	Seinfeld	Rockstar: Supernova
Studio 23								Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup	Two & A Half Men	Joey	Stacked	Grey's Anatomy		News Central	Oprah (10:45PM)		MYXlog

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

SPORTS
US OPEN

MARAT Safin rockets a serve to Germany's Tommy Haas during their match at the US Open.

REUTERS

Jankovic finally 'graduates'

Takes Dementieva to school, makes US Open semis

NEW YORK—JELENA JANKOVIC LOST so many matches in a row this year, she lost count. But she'd taken enough stats classes at university to figure this: It was maybe time to quit tennis and go back to school in Belgrade.

On Tuesday, Jankovic graduated—to her first Grand Slam semifinal, that is. She took away No. 4 Elena Dementieva's serve and coasted, 6-2, 6-1, at the US Open.

"I cannot believe that I won in two sets," Jankovic said. "What was the score? I don't even know the total score."

Shortly after she finished, rain began and play was called off for the day. At that point, seventh-seeded Nikolay Davydenko led No. 17 Andy Murray, 6-1, 5-7, 6-3 and Marat Safin led Tommy Haas 2-1.

If the weather clears up Wednesday—it was supposed to—every player except Jankovic was to be in action.

The 19th-seeded Serbian became the first player to reach this year's semifinals at Flushing Meadows, and will face the winner of the match between Lindsay Davenport and Justine Henin-Hardenne.

The 21-year-old Jankovic posted the biggest victory of her career, winning every game when Dementieva served.

Earlier this year, Jankovic wasn't winning anything. She lost nine straight matches after the Australian Open and wondered what was next.

"Ten losses in a row, nine losses—how many, I don't know," she said. "It was terrible. I don't know what was wrong with me. I didn't have the will to practice, didn't want to play."

"It was something that I never felt before and I almost quit playing tennis. I just wanted to go and study."

Now, those courses in statistics, economics and politics can wait.

"My ambition is to finish university," she said. "I don't want to be a typical tennis player who knows how to hit the forehand and a backhand, that's all. I think this career is quite short and I think there is life after tennis, as well, and I need to look after my future."

At 24, Dementieva was mulling her future, too.

"It is disappointing. I'm getting older and I haven't won a Grand Slam, so that's really what I'm thinking about all the time," she said. "I feel like I was in good shape here. That's why it's sad."

Dementieva let out a shriek midway through the second set when her shot hit the net tape, popped up and landed on her side. The sound echoed through Arthur Ashe Stadium, and she quietly exited a few games later.

"She didn't give me any chances," Dementieva said. "She was better."

Jankovic said she's had problems in the past with Dementieva's slow, slicing serves. It was hard to tell this time, though.

"It has some slice on the ball and it's a lot slower than all the other players," Jankovic said. *AP*

Woods wins PGA player of the year

NORTON, MASSACHUSETTS—ALONG WITH his fifth straight victory, Tiger Woods captured another prize at the Deutsche Bank Championship. His seventh victory of the year was enough for him to mathematically clinch US PGA Player of the Year.

Woods now has won the PGA of America's award eight times in his 10 full years on the US PGA Tour. The only two times he did not win the points-based award was in 1998 when Mark O'Meara won two majors, and in 2004 when Vijay Singh won nine times.

WOODS AP

Players receive 30 points for winning a major, 20 points for The Players Championship and 10 points for every other PGA Tour victory, with a 50-point bonus for winning two majors.

With only nine tournaments left in the season, no one can catch Woods.

Woods also has a commanding lead in competition for the Vardon Trophy for lowest scoring average at 68.30. Jim Furyk is second at 69.06.

But whether he wins that award for the seventh time in his career might depend on his schedule. Because he missed the cut at the US Open and withdrew after two rounds of the Nissan Open with the flu, Woods has played only 51 rounds this year. Unless he plays Disney, he would be four rounds short of the 60 minimum required to win the Vardon Trophy.

The US PGA Tour award for lowest scoring average—the Byron Nelson Trophy—requires only 50 rounds. *AP*

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Schumacher set to announce retirement

FRANKFURT, GERMANY—SEVEN-time Formula One champion Michael Schumacher will announce his retirement Sunday at the Italian Grand Prix in Monza, the Bild newspaper reported Wednesday.

"We can't comment on everything. As we said, there will be more on Sunday," Schumacher's spokeswoman Sabine Kehm said.

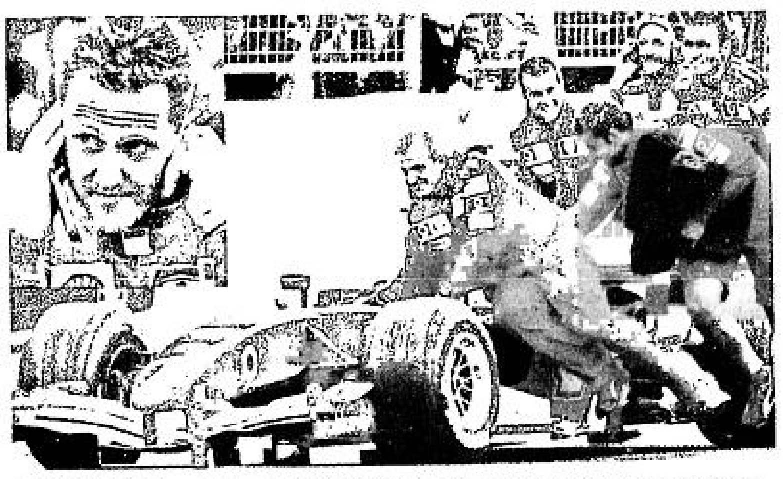
The mass-circulation newspaper gave no source for its report.

Schumacher's manager, Willi Weber, was quoted as telling Bild, "We won't have anything to say before Sunday."

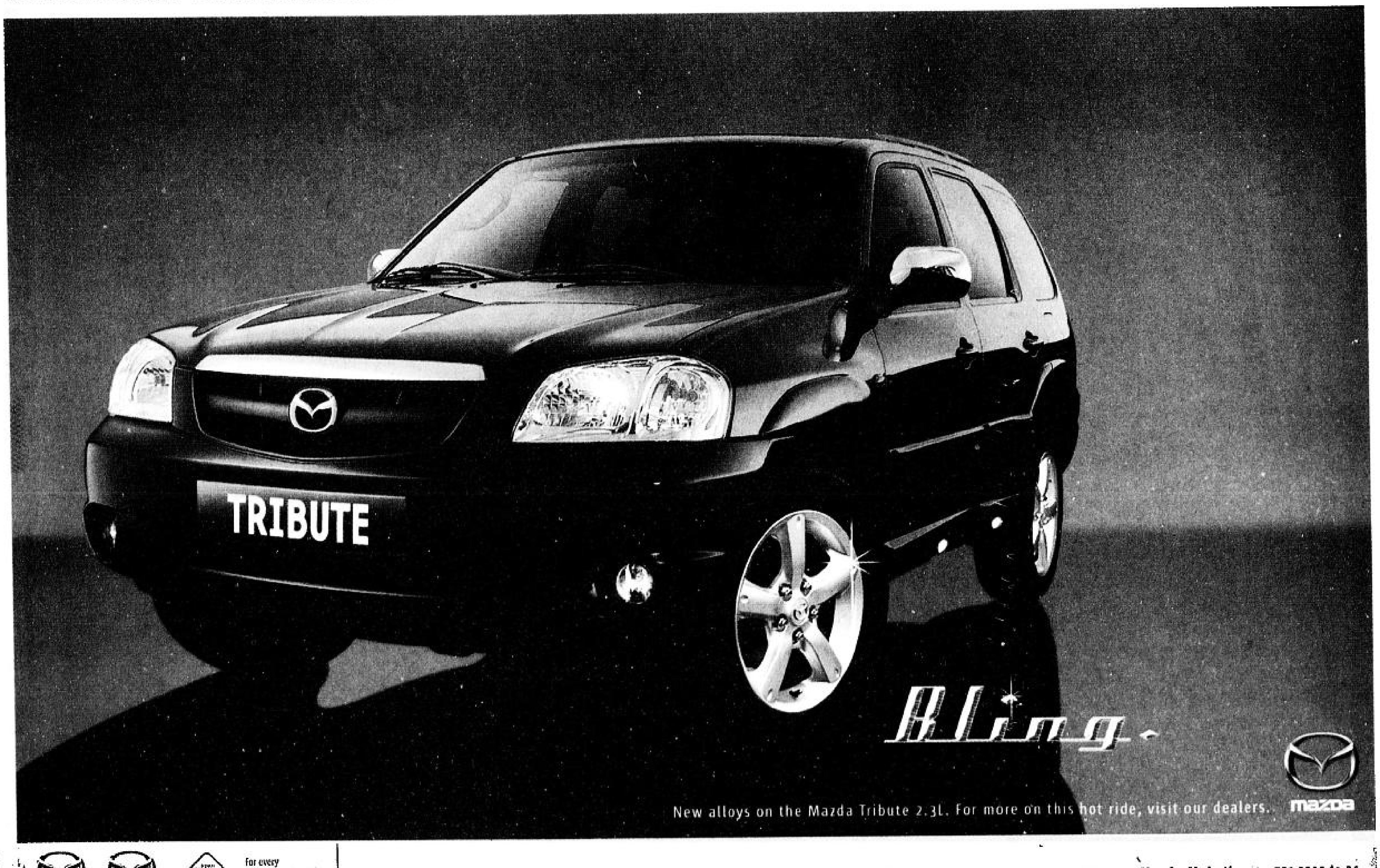
The German driver, who holds every major record in Formula One racing, has said before that he would announce a decision on his future at the Monza race.

Speculation has been growing in the German media in recent weeks that Schumacher would retire when his contract with Ferrari expires at the end of the season, which still has four Grand Prix, including the Italian race.

Schumacher trails defending Formula One champion Fernando Alonso by 12 points before the last four events. *AP*



MECHANICS push to the finish line the Ferrari F1 of German driver Michael Schumacher (inset), who is ready to call it a day.



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A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

ADB raises growth forecast for RP

Cites robust growth in exports, farm output

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK YESTERDAY UPGRADED ITS domestic growth forecast for the Philippines this year to 5.4 percent from an earlier 5 percent on the back of robust export earnings and farm production.

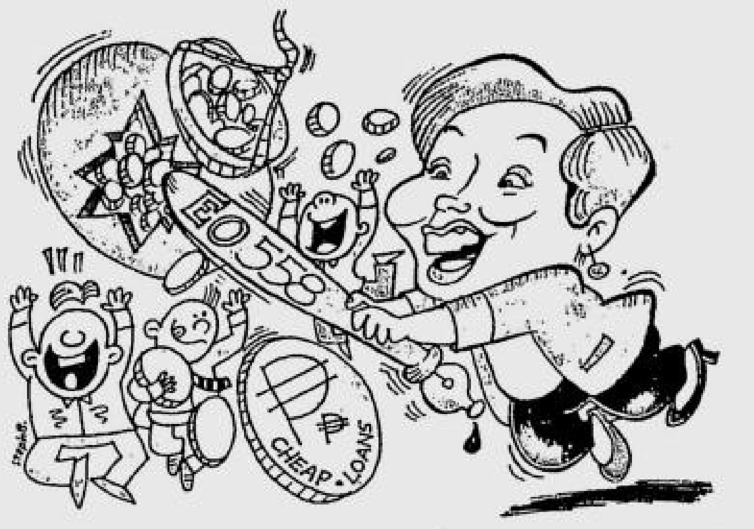
But the outlook on gross domestic product (GDP) expansion was not as rosy for the rest of Southeast Asia, the only region in the world where the ADB's flagship publication Asian Development Outlook scaled down its growth forecast due to political uncertainty and a postponement of large infrastructure projects in Thailand and slowing consumer spending in Malaysia.

The average growth forecast for the region was marginally cut to 5.4 percent from 5.5 percent. Favorable weather conditions and fiscal improvements in the Philippines as well as the strength in electronics and pharmaceutical manufacturing in Singapore tempered the downgrade.

In a briefing, ADB chief economist Ifzal Ali also noted that Vietnam, a net oil exporter, was Southeast Asia's "star" and would likely post the highest growth rate at 7.8 percent this year and further gain momentum with its access to the World Trade Organization.

Ali said the Philippines, which posted a GDP growth of 5 percent in 2005, was benefiting from a strong agricultural harvest as the El Niño dry spell seen last year had ended, and from a healthy rebound in exports.

ADB/ B2



GMA revives 'discredited' loan subsidies program

By Daxim L. Lucas

(First of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

AFTER A SIX-YEAR HIATUS, THE government is once more heading down the money-losing path of dole-outs and subsidized loans, thanks to a little known order signed recently by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

More alarmingly, critics of the President believe that the timing of this 180-degree shift in government policy has "sinister" undertones, coming only months before the 2007 national and local elections, slated to be a litmus test of the current administration.

EO 558, signed last August, repealed EO 138 issued by former President Joseph Estrada in 1999.

GMA REVIVES/ B2

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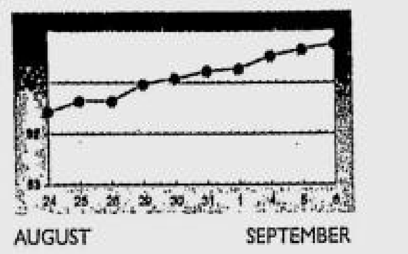

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Profit-taking halts rally

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.15-PERCENT higher yesterday as support for the conglomerates pushed the market to its best levels since May before profit-taking trimmed the gains, dealers said.

They said investors turned cautious after the index hit the resistance level of 2,400 points.

The composite index was up 3.64 points at 2,396.20, its highest close since May 17 when it ended at 2,463.57. The index moved between 2,384.90 and 2,401.55.

Volume was 3.37 billion shares worth P1.84 billion. The broader all-shares index rose 1.06 points to 1,482.59.

Losers beat gainers 61 to 29, with 61 stocks unchanged. AFP

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Rust and confidence

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THEY HAVE ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE tricky puzzles in business town.

Recently, Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri told news people that local banks were lazy, and that's why they were not lending enough to business.

Question: Was he censuring the banks openly, or was he criticizing this cute administration of Gloriaetta obliquely?

Who make all those off-and-on, ever-changing policies affecting the way banks look at business prospects in the first place—the ghosts of those executed activists?

Let's say that Neri is even correct. The next question in the minds of businessmen can only be this: What is this cute administration (i.e. Neri et al.) doing about it?

I mean, if the banks are so lazy and rusted that, despite the teeming confidence in every business in every corner of the country, they can pass up first-class lending prospects just like that, boy, are they in big trouble! And so are we!

Simple logic tells us that lending money is the only way that banks make money. Yet, according to Neri, they simply refuse to make money on purpose? Wow!

Quick, somebody please tell Mr. Planner that, in the business of lending money, there is such a thing as risk analysis. Included in it are the so-called political risks.

Maybe Neri has been working in the government for so long now, his only idea of risk-taking is using red-plate cars to the mall. Or for night-outs!

In the business community, they are still talking about the country's shattered confidence. This is not exactly great for investments.

Lately, okay, "hot money" may be coming into the country from abroad, allowing gains in the peso's exchange rate, and giving the stock market little signs of life.

Still, this country needs real hard capital, the more permanent investments in factories and infrastructure, and it can only come with business confidence.

What is the main line of this cute administration for confidence-building? Well, it brandishes the higher tax take, which it says should solve the… well, fiscal CRISIS.

Sure, that builds a lot of confidence. It was born out of a crisis, forgodsakes! To this cute administration, solving the crisis should be good enough, is that it?

But the additional tax hurts business. For what did the "economic managers" call the new tax measures of this cute administration again? They called it SACRIFICE!

I don't know what extra-terrestrial language equates "sacrifice" with "confidence," but down here in my barangay, confidence has something to do with trust in our leaders.

It means, for instance, the government does not just change its rules to favor business people who, in millions of wicked ways, are close to the leaders themselves.

Make no mistake about it—political risk is still the problem in investments here. Instead of blaming somebody else, perhaps Neri can help lessen the risk.

But then again, Neri has been going around the government's economic policy-making circles for the past several years. Nothing much really changed.

* * *

ABOUT two weeks ago, with sirens blaring and back-up security almost flying, Gloriaetta went to a meeting in an office building in Makati.

Whadayano, it was the head office of the sequestered United Coconut Planters Bank, or UCPB, on Makati Avenue.

What in heaven's name should need the Chief Executive's personal attention in a bank like UCPB?

Alright, the bank's bad loans went up to another universe during the time of former President Fidel "Kuya Eddie" Ramos, such as those billions of pesos in loans to the Ever-Gotesco group, which were never recovered.

Nah, my contacts do not think Gloriaetta's "visit" to UCPB had anything to do with those loans.

Waiting for her in the bank was a crowd of people who—one way or another—had something to do with the coconut industry. Something big here is therefore afoot.

For what was a woman like her doing in a place like that?

* * *

WHO IS behind EO 556, which Malacañang reportedly issued to stop the state-owned PNOC Exploration Co. from entering into a contract with a foreign oil company called Mitra Energy?

That is yet another difficult puzzle in business circles nowadays.

From what I heard, PNOC-EC was ready to sign a contract with the KL-based Mitra for extraction of the oil in the Malampaya reserve near Palawan, after months of hard bargaining starting last May.

Actually PNOC-EC invited oil companies to bid for the project early this year. The Malampaya oil field, which the operator Shell Exploration did not bother with, apparently because it was too small, suddenly became viable after oil prices rose to more than $60 a barrel.

But the oil field was estimated to yield only 40 million barrels, yet it needed some $400-$700 million in investments for commercial operation.

Now, everybody in the oil exploration industry knew that the big boys would only bother with oil fields yielding at least 200 million barrels.

Thus, PNOC-EC was able to attract to the bidding small companies like Mitra, which nevertheless claimed it had the backing of such bigshots as Standard Chartered Bank and British Petroleum.

All indications pointed to Mitra's getting the PNOC-EC contract, until a loser in the bidding went to court to argue that the contract should go to a Filipino company under the principle of "national patrimony," which was made famous by newspaper publisher Emilio Yap in the Manila Hotel privatization.

And then the executive order suddenly came out recently, although it was supposed to have been signed a few months ago.

Between us girls, nobody in the Palace could even say who actually prepared the draft of EO 556. Surely, it did not come from the Department of Energy.

Who did it come from then? Well, it is still a mystery.

Megaworld to build more BPO office space

By Daxim L. Lucas

LISTED COMPANY MEGAWORLD CORP. plans to venture deeper into the booming business process outsourcing (BPO) industry over the medium term by building more office space for call center-type operations.

In a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the property developer said it will build "around 400,000 square meters of BPO office space in four prime locations in Metro Manila over the next five years."

However, the company did not give estimates on the projected value of these new investments.

The disclosure came as Megaworld announced that it had started constructing a new eight-story, 20,000-square-meter office project at its Newport City project in Pasay City.

"The office building will feature state-of-the-art infrastructure geared to meet the 24x7 requirements of companies engaged in BPO services," it said in its statement.

The office building is set for completion by the first quarter of 2008.

The company added that it was "committed to help accelerate the growth of the BPO industry in the Philippines by making aggressive BPO office construction a pillar of its medium-term development program."

The Newport City complex on which the project will rise is part of the 245,966-square-meter property on the former Villamor Air Base that was bid out by the state-owned Bases Conversion Development Authority.

The company invested an initial P1.3 billion for the property, which is being transformed into a mixed-use urban complex.

Megaworld's track record includes large-scale projects such as the 15-hectare Eastwood City, a satellite business district that is home to the Eastwood City Cyberpark, the country's first-ever information technology park.

The Newport City complex, located near the domestic and international airports, will feature a business and technology park to meet the needs of local and foreign investor-locators seeking to locate their facilities and operations close to the airports.

Earlier, the company also announced that it would invest P8.2 billion for the development of the 50-hectare McKinley Hill Cyber Park in Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig City.

Megaworld will build 2,000 square meters worth of office space, mainly for call center and business process outsourcing (BPO) operations at the site. It will also set up facilities which can be rented out to retail shops, as well as residential facilities.

ADB raises . . .

From page B1

The ADB growth forecast for the Philippines compares with Thailand's 4.2 percent, Malaysia's 5.2 percent, and Indonesia's 5.4 percent, and Singapore's 6.6 percent.

"The government is making good progress at getting its fiscal house in order and will need to focus on establishing an environment that attracts more investment and create more jobs to ensure consistent growth going forward," Ali said.

Ali said it remained a cause for concern that private investment growth had not gained pace in the Philippines.

"This has to be addressed if the Philippines has to move to a higher growth trajectory," he said.

The economist said the business climate in the country must improve by addressing issues in corporate governance, clarity in policy implementation, rule of law and availability of infrastructure.

"In the Philippines, while inflation is still high, it's going down, benefited by higher food production in the first half," Ali said.

Inflation for this year is projected to average at 6.7 percent and slow down to 6 percent next year.

For 2007, the ADB kept its GDP growth forecast at 5.3 percent, assuming that improvements in fiscal reforms would continue, thus maintaining investor confidence and setting the stage for much-needed development spending in subsequent years.

"In the near term, fiscal policy is likely to be biased toward stability rather than growth, considering the high level of debt," the report said.

Interest payments on the debt were still projected to consume more than a third of government income.

GMA revives 'discredited' loan subsidies program

From page B1

Back then, the Estrada order was received as a pleasant surprise by the business community, since it effectively put an end to the distribution of behest loans via government financial institutions (GFIs) and government-owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs).

Today, the Arroyo order—a sparse one-page memo which provides no explanation for the policy—is being received with raised eyebrows and sometimes amazement by the few people who are familiar with its implications.

"Potentially, I think this EO may be sinister," House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said in an interview. "It could be related to the 2007 elections or Cha-cha (the Arroyo administration's attempt to amend the 1987 Constitution)."

The opposition stalwart opined that widening the government's distribution channels for cheap loans was one sure way to win points with local government units and people at the grassroots level to support President Arroyo's political agenda.

Poor track record

The government has dabbled with subsidized loans—known euphemistically as "directed credit programs"—since the Marcos era, which launched the iconic Masagana 99 program.

Through cheap loans, Masagana 99 was ostensibly meant to help rice farmers increase their production to 99 sacks of rice per hectare. After some initial success, the program failed as unsophisticated borrowers, in many cases prodded by the government to borrow, defaulted on their loans en masse.

According to a study being prepared by the National Credit Council (NCC), the government lost a total of about P40 billion worth of loans in the 1970s and 1980s.

"At that time, we had a total of 111 government agencies that served as distribution outlets for these funds," said Microfinance Council of the Philippines executive director Edgardo F. Garcia, who studied the government's track record extensively as part of this research.

"All of them failed," he added.

Another briefing paper prepared for the NCC showed that the Estrada-era ban on subsidized lending saved the government a substantial sum at a time when the government's coffers were being drained by weak tax collection.

"Prior to [Estrada's] EO 138, estimates show that for only 20 directed credit programs, the government incurred about P1.6 billion in fiscal losses annually due to interest subsidies alone," the briefing paper explained.

"These do not even include fiscal losses due to non-payment of principal and loan defaults," it added. "With the issuance [of EO 138], fiscal losses due to subsidized credits were drastically minimized or eliminated."

International opposition

Most multilateral lending institutions like the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank—all of which lend money to the Philippine government regularly—have voiced their opposition to directed credit programs over the years.

In late 2004, former IMF first managing director Anne Krueger outlined the agency's policy against subsidized loans, noting the chronic failure of such programs of the very same nature as the Arroyo administration is about to embark on.

"There is plenty of evidence that government-directed credit does not achieve the intended results; it leads to a misallocation of resources, it reduces the overall return on capital and therefore has a dampening effect on [economic] growth," she said.

"Governments the world over find it hard to resist the temptation to show that they can do better than the market," Krueger added. "[But] experience around the world has shown—repeatedly—that governments are not best placed to assess risk and economic potential in the private sector."

The World Bank also echoes a similar view.

"In the extreme, directed-credit policies merely reallocate wealth and leave the ultimate allocation of credit unchanged," according to a paper published last year by the World Bank Institute. "For these reasons, directed credit often fails to reach its intended beneficiaries."

"Many directed loans go to unprofitable projects and are not repaid," the paper explained. "Some borrowers simply refuse to repay their loans, hoping that being in a favored sector will protect them from court action."

All the evidence against directed credit has failed, however, to dampen the Arroyo administration's enthusiasm for it.

"I think it's a great program," said Presidential Management Staff chief Arthur Yap. "It will benefit the poorest of the poor and the top 10 poorest provinces."

Yap, who also serves as presidential adviser on job creation, envisions government agencies, state-owned corporations and financial institutions, as well as local government units lending out funds at below-market rates to help spur the economy.

Yap believes that a repeat of past failures can be avoided through strict monitoring of borrowers and loan repayments—but 111 failed state lending programs and P40 billion in bad loan writeoffs over 20 years go against his optimism. *(To be concluded)*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 6, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	36.5	37	36.5	37	865,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	54.5	55	54.5	55	1,323,500
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.43	0.44	0.41	0.42	6,380,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	79	79	78	78	637,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39.5	40	39	40	501,400
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	55	55	55	55	100
Philippine National Bank	34	34	33.5	33.5	5,100
Phil. Savings Bank	41	41.5	41	41.5	4,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	21,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	44	44	44	44	8,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com. Inc.	2.8	3.1	2.75	2.8	4,533,000
First Abacus Financial	0.5	0.57	0.5	0.57	350,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	5,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1640	1640	1640	1640	150
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	20,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	225	225	225	225	1,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2010	2010	2010	2010	110
Ivantage Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.36	1.36	2,731,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	49.5	50	49	49.5	676,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	46.5	46.5	45	45.5	821,700
Manila Electric Co. A	18.25	18.5	17.75	18.25	626,100
Manila Electric Co. B	29	29	28.5	28.5	763,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9	9	9	9	6,633,000
Petron Corp.	4.05	4.15	4	4	6,233,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	150,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1	1.16	1	1.12	6,230,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
CADP Group Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	3,000
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	23	23	35,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33.5	34	33.5	33.5	208,700
RFM Corp.	0.87	0.88	0.82	0.83	120,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	605,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	110,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64	65	60,900
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71	70	71	515,000
Universal Robina Corp.	17.75	18	17.75	17.75	5,474,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	1,360,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.33	0.33	0.3	0.31	3,520,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.66	980,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.36	27,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.75	4.95	4.75	4.9	607,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.44	1.44	60,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	7,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	50,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.61	0.64	0.6	0.61	65,260,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.12	0.125	0.115	0.115	14,800,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.7	0.7	0.48	0.48	350,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	64,000,000
Ayala Corp.	465	477.5	465	470	187,280
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	350,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5.1	5	5.1	1,833,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.029	31,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	194,000
APC Group Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	3,100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	61,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.02	0.98	0.99	450,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	3.6	3.65	3.15	3.6	745,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.2	1.34	1.18	1.22	435,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	6,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.18	1.2	7,902,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	2,361,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.75	2.75	188,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	1,251,000
Keppel Holdings	1	1	1	1	1,000
Medco Holdings	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,400,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	500,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	10,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	2.55	2.75	2.12	2.22	21,608,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	5,100,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.185	0.185	1,990,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	40,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.61	0.65	0.6	0.6	5,060,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	8,690,000
SM Investments Corp.	229	233	228	230	1,390,670
South China Resources Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.92	0.93	410,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.38	1.38	315,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	3,210,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14.25	14.25	14	14.25	3,239,600
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	4,360,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	1,700,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.26	2.4	2.26	2.4	2,005,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	24,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,110,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	160,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.49	0.51	19,740,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	300,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.065	0.0675	0.06	0.06	17,800,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.46	1.42	1.42	28,050,000
Interport Res.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	56,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	10,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.26	2,550,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	320,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.72	1.74	31,224,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	810,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13	13.25	12.75	13	1,042,200
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	8,350,000
SM Development Corp.	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.8	1,613,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.2	2,902,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.63	0.66	0.6	0.65	2,860,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.0925	0.0925	1,500,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16.25	16.25	16	16.25	51,300
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.22	4,991,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1030	1035	1030	1035	93,290
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.25	4.25	4.15	4.15	6,064,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2000	2010	1990	1995	109,690
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	3,000,000
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	12,000,000
Ionics Inc.	2.04	2.04	2.02	2.02	13,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	2,500,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.14	1.24	1.14	1.24	6,000
Philweb Corp.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	50,300,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14.75	15	14.75	14.75	447,600
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	20,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	1,610,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.96	2.08	1.96	2.08	19,086,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	600,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	1,000,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3	3	2.85	2.85	124,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	127,000
Paxys Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.5	93,500
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	5.5	5.5	4.95	5.1	1,681,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	5.4	5.5	4.95	5.1	2,127,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.014	0.015	0.012	0.014	2,095,400,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	9.2	9.2	8.8	9	2,533,000
Benguet Corp. A	10	10	10	10	51,500
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.28	2.28	2.26	2.28	108,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	11,930,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	2,370,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.018	383,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	23,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	166,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.1	4.1	3.95	4	2,617,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.1	4.15	4	4	7,351,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	21	21	20.5	20.75	135,400
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	300,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.64	0.68	0.64	0.66	4,720,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	690,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	11,200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	2,500,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.2	1.22	1.18	1.2	1,532,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.22	1.24	1.18	1.2	399,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	11	11.5	10.75	10.75	165,100
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	103	104	103	104	25,570
PLDT (10% Pref) Series F	10	10	10	10	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100

CURRENCIES

September 6, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.780031	1.000000	50.4630
Japan	Yen	0.006723	0.008619	0.4349
United Kingdom	Pound	1.476989	1.893500	95.5517
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100296	0.128579	6.4885
Switzerland	Franc	0.632372	0.810701	40.9104
Canada	Dollar	0.701656	0.899523	45.3926
Singapore	Dollar	0.497850	0.638244	32.2077
Australia	Dollar	0.600393	0.769704	38.8416
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.069158	2.652661	133.8612
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.207980	0.266631	13.4550
Brunei	Dollar	0.496266	0.636213	32.1052
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.020899	0.026792	1.3520
UAE	Dirham	0.212386	0.272279	13.7400
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.282000	64.6936
Argentina	Peso	0.251948	0.322997	16.2994
Brazil	Real	0.366970	0.470455	23.7406
Denmark	Kroner	0.134079	0.171889	8.6740
India	Rupee	0.016888	0.021650	1.0925
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214294	0.274725	13.8634
Mexico	New Peso	0.071833	0.092090	4.6471
New Zealand	Dollar	0.504353	0.646580	32.6284
Norway	Kroner	0.122832	0.157470	7.9464
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012897	0.016534	0.8344
South Africa	Rand	0.108842	0.139536	7.0414
Korea	Won	0.000815	0.001045	0.0527
Sweden	Kroner	0.107687	0.138055	6.9667
Syria	Pound	0.015027	0.019264	0.9721
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023818	0.030535	1.5409
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000363	0.000466	0.0235

RP competitiveness rank slips to 126 from 121

World Bank says Philippines has failed to implement enough economic reforms

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES IS LOOKING less attractive in the eyes of business.

According to the latest survey of 175 countries by the World Bank, the Philippines' global competitiveness ranking slipped to 126th from 121st last year.

"Doing Business 2007: How to Reform," a joint research project of the World Bank and its private sector lending arm, International Finance Corp., said the country failed to implement enough reforms to enhance its business climate since last year up to April 2006.

Thus, the Philippines fell way behind Southeast Asian neighbors Thailand (18th), Malaysia (25th), Taiwan (47th) and even Vietnam (104th). Only Indonesia got a worse rating of 135th.

"The good news is that for this particular year, there were no regulations imposed that negatively affected the business climate," IFC country manager Vipul Bhagat said in a briefing yesterday.

"The bad news is that no positive reforms were done either and thus the country slipped in its ranking this year," Bhagat added.

The study, the fourth in a series of annual WB-IFC reports investigating regulations that enhance business activity and those that constrain it, looked at how countries performed in 10 areas: starting a business, dealing with licenses, employing workers, registering property, getting credit, protecting investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and closing a business.

The study showed that on a scale of one to 10, the Philippines scored only 3 in the index for legal rights protection and 3.3 in the index for investor protection.

The country was also outranked in the legal protection index by Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam which scored 8, 5, 5 and 4, respectively.

Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia also scored higher in the investor protection index with respective ratings of 8.7, 6 and 5.3.

It was noted to be more cumbersome to start a business (taking 48 days), obtain a license to build a warehouse (197 days), register property (33 days) and enforce a contract (600 days) in the Philippines than in most of its peers across East Asia.

Based on the study, it would take 11 procedures to start a new business in the country compared to only five in Hong Kong, six in Singapore, eight in Taiwan and Thailand and nine in Malaysia.

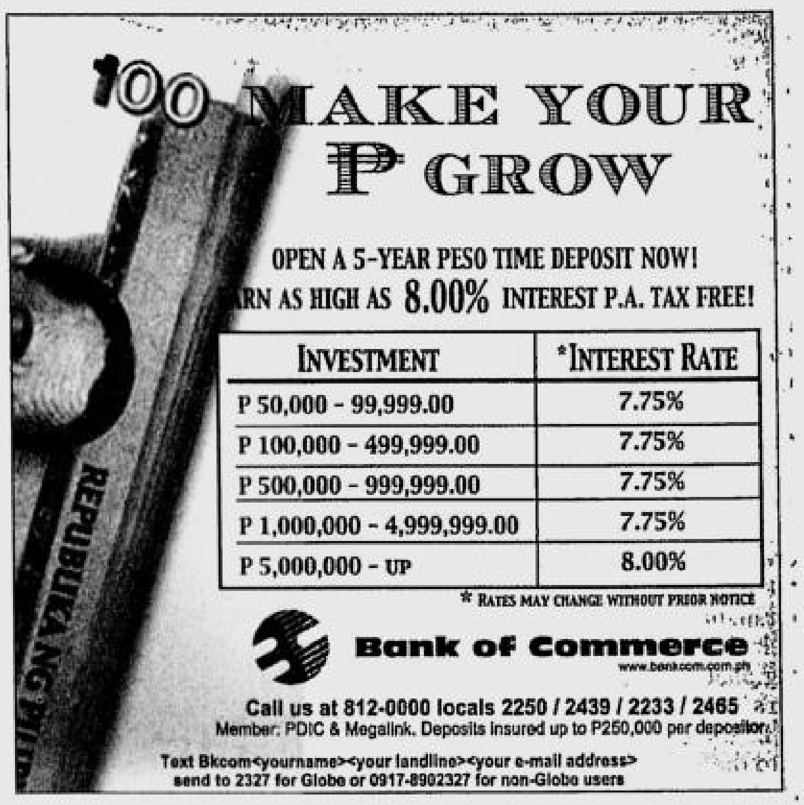
The Philippines rated high relative to other East Asian economies only in two benchmarks—ease in trading across borders and enforcement of commercial contracts.

The report showed that it takes 10 days to import in the Philippines and 18 to export, beaten only by Singapore, China and Taiwan.

But what was not included in the report was the significant progress made in fiscal reforms that, in turn, greatly reduced macroeconomic risks, said WB country director Joachim von Amsberg.

"Economic performance has been relatively strong which has increased investor confidence. This situation has created the breathing space to now focus on the microeconomic constraints to investment," Amsberg said.

"If the Philippines can effectively address the myriad macroeconomic constraints faced by investors, large and small, it can reach its potential for rapid development," he said.



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REMOVING BOTTLENECKS

Business groups seek closer ties with LGUs

By Ronnel W. Domingo

BUSINESS LEADERS ARE PUSHING FOR tighter links with local government units in an effort to make it easier to do business in the country.

According to the Philippine Exporters Confederation, business executives will soon be signing covenants with their LGU leaders, which will be one of the highlights of the National Competitiveness Summit to be held late this month.

Summit organizers include trade and investment officials and private sector leaders, the core group of which includes former trade secretaries Roy Navarro and Cesar Bautista, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Donald Dee and Philexport president Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis Jr.

Philexport said business leaders would be signing pacts with the League of Provinces and the League of Municipalities since pre-summit workshops concluded that a national competitiveness program could only succeed if and when local governments took up the issue as their own.

"It was determined that the bulk of the action and much of the bottlenecks in business transactions happen at the town or city hall," the group said.

"The governors and mayors need to own up and act on the drive for simpler and faster processes," the group added.

On Wednesday, the International Finance Corp. and the World Bank reported that the Philippines ranked 126th out of 175 countries in terms of ease of doing business.

Called "Doing Business 2007: How to Reform," the study showed that in the year that ended last April, neighboring countries had outpaced the Philippines in terms of reforms related to microeconomic matters, particularly those that concern enterprises.

While Southeast Asia includes top-ranked Singapore and fast-rising Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam, the Philippines fared better only when compared to laggards Indonesia, Cambodia, Lao and East Timor-which was next to bottom-ranked Democratic Republic of Congo.

WB country manager Joachim von Amberg said in a press briefing the government should also consider instituting microeconomic reforms especially since it has made headway in macroeconomic matters with the return of fiscal health.

Japan firm eyes depot in Bataan

By Abigail L. Ho

JAPANESE FIRM SUMITOMO CORP. HAS EXpressed interest in putting up a biofuel central terminal in Bataan, according to Philippine National Oil Co. Alternative Fuels Corp.

PNOC-AFC president Peter Anthony Abaya said in an interview that Sumitomo had submitted a letter of interest and that the state firm was already in "advanced negotiations" with Sumitomo.

Sumitomo had proposed to shoulder the majority of the investment needed to put up the facility.

He did not reveal the exact capacity of the planned facility and the needed investment, saying only that according to Sumitomo, the terminal would be the largest such facility in Asia when completed.

"We're now moving toward signing a (memorandum of understanding), which will then pave the way for a feasibility study. Maybe (the signing can take place) in two weeks," he told the INQUIRER.

According to the executive summary of PNOC-AFC's plans and objectives, the central terminal facility will serve as a storage depot for all biofuels produced nationwide as well as yields from the proposed 50,000-barrels-a-day coal-to-fuels facility.

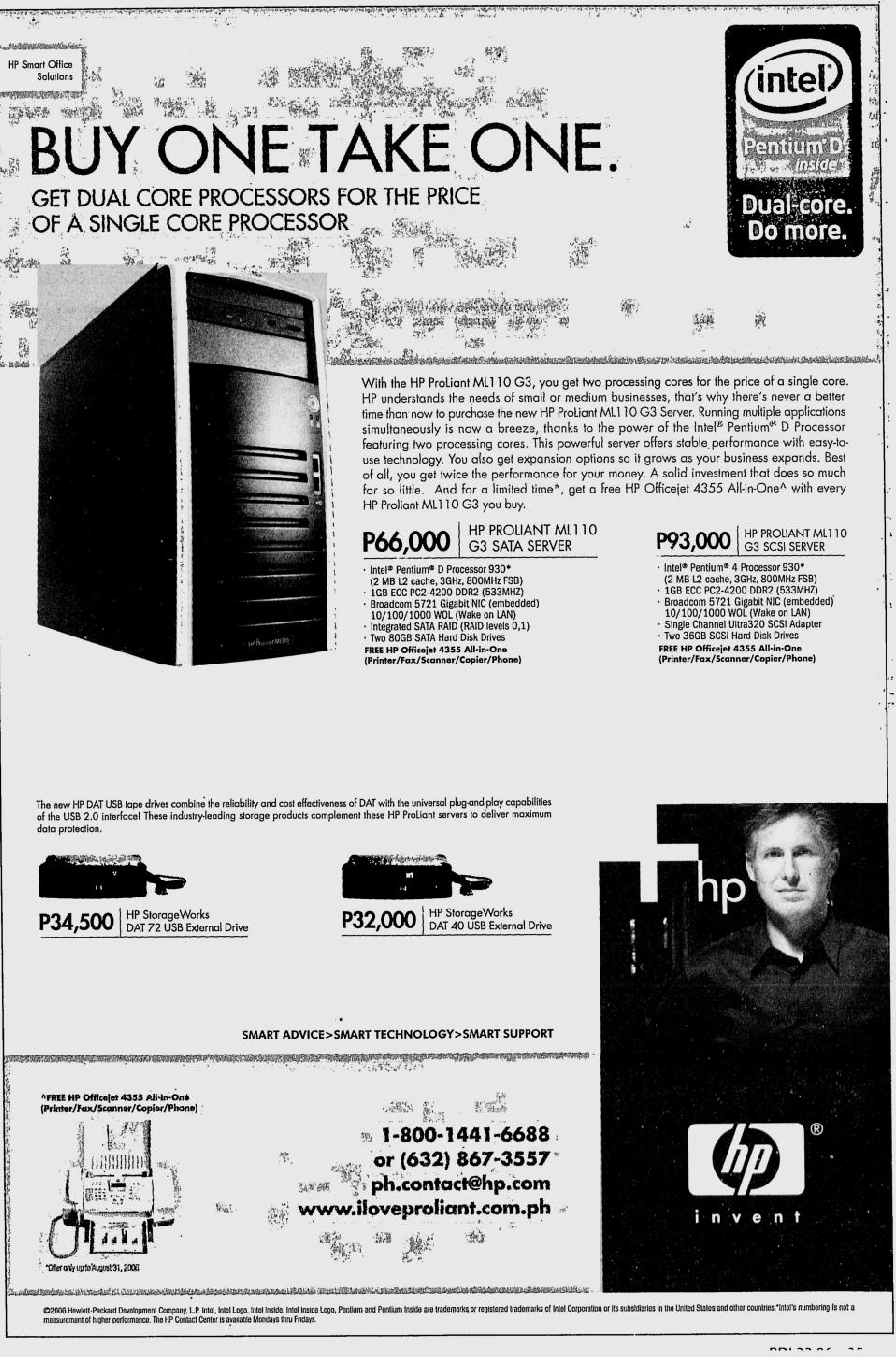
"The capacity of the facility may be expanded to accommodate the volume of the Pandacan Oil Depot if and when it is eventually shut down," PNOC-AFC said.

Apart from the central terminal facility, Sumitomo had also agreed to infuse equity into the coal-to-fuels project.

Local company MG Mining and Energy Corp. had also signed a similar agreement.

Antonio Ver, president of coal-to-fuels project H&WB Corp., had earlier said that of the available 15-percent equity stake, Sumitomo agreed to take 15-20 percent, while MG Mining would take another 30 percent.

The remaining 50-55 percent of the 15 percent, he said, was still available to other prospective equity partners.



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"For God so loved the world
that He gave us His only
begotten Son, that whoever
believes in Him shall
not perish but have
everlasting life."
John 3:16

Edita Vergara Sarmiento

of Baras, Catanduanes

Died in the grace of our Lord on September 5, 2006
at the age of 78.

She is survived by her children **Jorge**, **Rene**, **Cesar**, **Juan Jr.**, and **Ma. Joy**; daughters-in-law **Wawie**, **La Rainne**, **Lala** and **Menchie**; grandchildren **Franco**, **Mikaela**, **Gabriela**, **Jeremiah**, **Golda**, **Zsamie**, **Zsarmaine**, **Zsarina**, **Marianne Sandra**, **Juan Paolo** and **Sophia Ana**; and sisters **Gloria**, **Luisa** and **Carmen**.

Her body lies at the Jose Rizal Chapel of La Funeraria Paz at Manila Memorial Park on Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Burial is scheduled for Sunday, September 10, at **Manila Memorial** after the 9 a.m. Mass.

In loving remembrance of our beloved Inay

JULIANA MACALALAD vda. de PALACIO

of Balayan, Batangas

Married to **Pedro Ermita Palacio, Sr.** (†)

Born : August 17, 1916
Died : September 4, 2006

Her bereaved children and their families request relatives, friends and the pious to join them in prayers for the eternal repose of her soul:

Edna & Pete Alaras
Selma, Christy & Paolo Dimaano, Janice & Ariel Atienza,
Nova & Joseph Castandiello

Amor & Dio (†) **Falgui, Jr.**
William & Brenda Omengan, Dondi & Lou Gonzales, Richard,
Diana & Roche Diansen

Junior (†) **& Elsie Maglunog**
Teresa & Eric Pelea, Gigot (†), Oliver & Sophia Grandeza

Gil & Ding Gozon
Jay & Tessa Arce, Grace & Reuben Quintero, Dan

Lita & Gemin Noche, Jr.
Emily & Alex Cabungcal, Butch & Fritzie Dimailig

Pancho & Nory (†) **Carandang**
Yasmin & Charlie Guerrero, Rip

Mer & Zeny Yadao
Dedette, Jenny & Darius delas Alas, Beverly & James Catipay

and her 35 great-grandchildren.

Our beloved ***"Inay"*** lies in state at her residence at Antorcha St., Balayan, Batangas. Interment will be on September 9, 2006 at the Balayan Catholic Cemetery after the 3 p.m. Mass at the Immaculate Concepcion Parish, Balayan, Batangas.

Death Notice

CESAR RAMON D. ESPINOSA JR.

Nov. 11, 1959 – Sept. 2, 2006

Interment today, September 7, 2006,
3 pm at the Manila Memorial Park,
Sucat Parañaque City.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
— 2 Corinthians 5:8

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."

— 2 Corinthians 5:4-5

CARD OF THANKS
On August 29, 2006, our beloved

Esperanza (Espie/Ching) A. Gonzalez

went home to be in God's eternal bosom,
there to live in peace and perfection.

Her going home was a moment of grief for us,
but it was easy to bear that grief for there
were loved ones, friends, and colleagues who offered their time
to assure us of the presence and love of God in our life.

To you we offer our deepest gratitude,
and our prayer for God's blessing in your life today and beyond.

Gonzalez Family

"One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek: to dwell in the Lord's house all the days of my life..."
Psalm 27:4

Our Dearly Beloved

Brig. Gen. ATAULFO "TOFFY" PEÑAFLORIDA ALVAREZ

PAF (Ret.)
PAFFS CLASS '49B

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 4, 2006
at the age of 85.

His loving wife **Aveline**; children **Ma. Celina** and **Rafael**; grandchildren **Praxis**, **Carla**, **Samantha** and **Sofia**.

Relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE MORTUARY at Our Lady of All Nations Chapel, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City.

Cremation, tomorrow, September 8, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at Funeraria Paz Sucat, Parañaque City (inside Manila Memorial Park) after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Villamor Air Base Chapel.

His ashes will be brought to the National Shrine of St. Therese of the Child Jesus at Villamor Air Base after the cremation for Military Honors and interment.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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MILA C. RODRIGUEZ

Peacefully joined her Creator
on September 4, 2006 at the age of 63.

Her loving husband **Ernie**;
children **Aimee** and **Dax**, **Norman**,
Aileen and **Jürgen**, **Eric** and **Lizel**, **Edmond**, **Bea**,
and **Vicky**; together with grandchildren, relatives
and friends request the readers to pray
for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Floresco Funeral Homes,
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon City,
Mass at 8:00 p.m., Friday, September 8, 2006.

Cremation will be held on Saturday
at 9:00 a.m. at Ever Memorial Park,
Marilao, Bulacan.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to notify the public that **CHUOIRYOU ELDER CARE NETWORK SERVICES, INC.**, a corporation duly organized and existing under the law of the Republic of the Philippines, with principal office at 301 GreenWorld Plaza, 79 President Avenue, BF Homes, Parañaque City, Metro Manila, is applying a License with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) to operate & Landbased Recruitment Agency, The Names of its Incorporators/Board of Directors and Officers are as follow:

NAMES	POSITION
MYRA N YANGUAS	*President/Treasurer*
AKIRA SHIMAMOTO	*Director*
JONATHAN CAPUCHINO	*Director*
MICHIAKI KODAMA	*Director*
DOMINADOR ESQUIEVEL IV	*Corporate Secretary*

For more information contact us at:

301 GreenWorld Plaza, 79 President Avenue,
BF Homes, Parañaque City, Metro Manila
Telephone No: 541-4963
826-0587
Email add: chuoiryou_training@yahoo.com

(PDI--Sept. 7, 2006)

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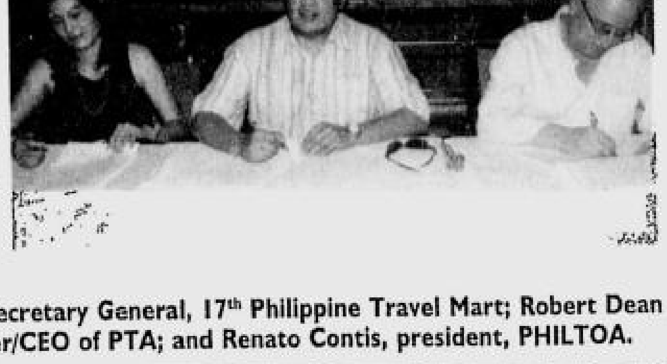
PTA JOINS THE 17TH PHILIPPINE TRAVEL MART



Philippine Tourism Authority signed up with PHILTOA for the staging of the 17th Philippine Travel Mart's "Health and Wellness—The Next Frontier" on Sept. 8-10 at Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Photo shows (from left) Catherine Mendoza, Secretary General, 17th Philippine Travel Mart; Robert Dean S. Barbers, general manager/CEO of PTA; and Renato Contis, president, PHILTOA.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldng., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
EMBASSY OF FRANCE 16/F, Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat cor. Makati Ave., 1200 Makati City	Philippe Alain Courquet	Visa Assistant
CHINA NATIONAL TECHNICAL IMPORT & EXPORT CORP. U-901, 9/F West Tower, PSE Ctr. Exchange Road, Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Qi Liu	Representative
NCT TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATION G/F TDG NYK Harbor Center Bldg. I Railroad cor 23rd & 24th Sts. Port Area, Manila	Hiroyoshi Yamashita	President
HSBC ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING (PHILS.), INC. 5150 North Bridgeway, Northgate Cyberzone, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Nicole Marie Harris	Senior Vice President-Operations
eTELECARE GLOBAL SOLUTIONS INC. Cyber One Bldg., Eastwood City Quezon City	Kai Doring	Multi-Lingual Customer Service Associate
eTELECARE GLOBAL SOLUTIONS INC. Cyber One Bldg., Eastwood City Quezon City	Valerie X.P.L. Seys	Sales Support Manager
EDSA SHANGRI-LA HOTEL & RESORT, INC. No. 1 Gardenway, Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City	Chi Yen Hubert Aw	Director of Food and Beverage
ACESITE (PHILS.) HOTEL CORP. (MANILA PAVILION HOTEL) United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila	Damion Lambertus Schaap	Executive Chef
INBISCO PHILIPPINES INC. U-1006 Cityland Herrera Tower Rufino St. cor. Valero St. Bel-Air, Makati City	Tomas Wiliam	Vice President-Finance

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–Sept. 7, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRETARIAT OFFICE
Tel. No. (632) 455-2758 e-mail: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS) and Servers

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)*, through its *2006 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P12,836,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *supply and delivery of uninterruptible power supplies (UPS) and servers as enumerated below.*

LOT	PARTICULARS	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
1	40 units servers	10,000,000.00
2	40 units UPS for servers	2,000,000.00
3	209 units UPS for Personal Computers	836,000.00
	TOTAL	**12,836,000.00**

Bids received in excess of the BAC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of uninterruptible power supplies (UPS) and servers.* Delivery is required within 45 days from receipt of Notice of Award. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB).**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P10,000.00 in the form of *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*, will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *October 2, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on October 17, 2006 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *October 17, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Conference Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NFA* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity — *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Person — *Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address — *Philsugin Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City*
Telephone / Fax No. — *(632) 455-2758*
e-mail address — *vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Website — *www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
For Administration and General Support Services

(PDI – September 7 & 14, 2006)

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DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City
Telephone no. 082-221-9400 (local 204)/ Fax: 082-2264885

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Davao City Water District (DCWD) through its Bids and Awards Committee - B (BAC-B), invites consultants to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and if found eligible and shortlisted, to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : **2006 Customer Satisfaction Survey**
Brief Description : **Conduct the survey, prepare reports and present the result of the survey to the Project Coordinator, Board of Directors and Management of the Davao City Water District.**
Approved Budget For the Contract : **Php 318,124.96**
Source of Funding :
Contract Duration : **56 calendar days**

The list of minimum requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective bidders shall be checked using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Shortlisting of eligible consultants will be done based on the following criteria: experience of the consultant, qualification of personnel and current workload. Only ***three (3)*** eligible bidders shall make up the shortlist. The evaluation procedure to be adopted shall be ***Quality-Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE)***. Bids whose technical proposals pass the minimum technical rating of **50%** shall have its financial proposals opened and evaluated. The technical proposal shall carry **70 %** weight in the bid evaluation.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility	August 31 – Sept. 15, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	August 31 – Sept. 15, 2006
3. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	Sept. 1 – 22, 2006
4. Results of Eligibility Check	Sept. 22 – Oct. 6, 2006
5. Results of Short Listing	Oct. 9-11, 2006
6. Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 11 – 20, 2006
7. Pre-bid Conference	October 23, 2006; 2:00 P.M.
8. Receipt & Opening of Bids	November 7, 2006; 2:00 P.M.

The Eligibility Screening Form will be available at BAC-B Secretariat c/o at the DCWD Office of the Asst. General Manager for Operations, Bajada, Davao City upon submission of a letter of intent, and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 1,000.00** to the DCWD Cashier. Submission and results of eligibility shall be in the same office.

Bid Documents will be available only to shortlisted bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 1,500.00** to the DCWD Cashier.

The Davao City Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) ENGR. EXEQUIEL B. HOMEZ
Acting BAC-B Chairperson

(PDI–Aug. 31 & Sept. 7, 2006)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget	Date/Time		Non-Refundable Fee
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
Printing of LANDBANK 2007 Calendar: 300,000 pcs. - Wall 500,000 pcs. - Pocket	 P6,684,000.00 100,000.00	September 14, 2006 1:30 PM	September 27, 2006 1:00 PM	P 3,400.00
3 sets ECCS Reader (at least 35, 60 & 200 DPM) Plus Two (2) Years Maintenance Services 2 Units MICR Encoder (at least 60 DPM) Plus Two (2) Years Mantenance Services	2,364,408.76 260,000.00	September 14, 2006 3:00 PM	September 27, 2006 1:00 PM	P 1,400.00

The Bid Documents shall be available at the General Services Department starting August 31, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at GSD Conference Room, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila.

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes placed in single outer envelope and sealed accordingly in the bid box located at the abovementioned address

For more information, please call the LANDBANK-Requisitions Management Division at telephone nos. 551-2200 locals 2452, 2453, 7233 & 7234.

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI–Aug. 31 & Sept. 7, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
PNOC
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5282

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

	Approved Budget
Various Sizes of Spiral Wound Gaskets under ***FGT 53754***	PHP 2,861,000.00
Various Sizes of Expanding Gate Valves	**Approved Budget**
under ***FGT 53721***	PHP 1,437,000.00
under ***FGT 53766***	PHP 8,162,000.00
under ***FGT 53767***	PHP 3,440,000.00
LOT OFFER	PHP 13,039,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Ms. Maria Cristina Lynn M. Mercado** starting **August 31, 2006** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **September 8, 2006 for FGT 53754 and August 31, 2006 for FGT 53721/66/67, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than 2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Wall Clock Time) of **September 22, 2006 for FGT 53754 and September 7, 2006 for FGT 53721/66/67.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Aug. 31 & Sept 7, 2006)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development II
SOUTHERN ISABELA GENERAL HOSPITAL
Rosario, Santiago City
Tel. No. 078-682-7687

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **SOUTHERN ISABELA GENERAL HOSPITAL** through its Hospital Bids and Awards Committee (HOBAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Procurement of Drugs & Medicines, Medical Supplies, Laboratory Supplies, X-ray & Dental Supplies
Location : Zamora Street, Cor. Recto Avenue, Brgy. Rosario, Santiago City
Brief Description :
1. Drugs and Medicines - 4,600,000.00
2. Medical Supply - 13,526,908.00
3. a. Laboratory - 7,779,837.00
   b. Dental - 482,000.00
   c. X-ray - 254,863.00

Approved Budget For the Contract : Php 26,643,608.00
Contract Duration : One (1) Year from date of Award
Delivery Period : Per Purchase Order (PO) / Quarter

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project at least within the last two (2) number of years, with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirmeent is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibiliy Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

Activities	Schedule	Time	Venue
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 1 September 12, 2006	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	SIGH Conference
2. Pre-bid Conference	September 12, 2006	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	SIGH Conference
3. Submission and Opening of Bid Documents	September 25, 2006	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	SIGH Conference
4. Bid Evaluation	September 26 - October 4, 2006	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	SIGH Conference
5. Post-qualification	October 09, 2006	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	SIGH Conference
6. Notice of Award	October 13, 2006	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	SIGH Conference

For single-stage bidding:

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Php 3,000.00 to the Southern Isabela General Hospital Cashier.

The Southern Isabela General Hospital assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **GERMAN A. MABBAYAD, MD**
HOBAC Chairman

(PDI--Sept. 1 & 7, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Metro Roxas Water District
MRWD Bldg., Km. 1, Roxas City 5800, Philippines
Tel. #(036) 6210-737 / 6210-044 / 6215-474
Telefax # (036) 6216-083
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

No. 010-06

The **METRO ROXAS WATER DISTRICT (MRWD)**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 1,610KVA GENERATING SET (BRAND NEW)
Location : NEW WATER TREATMENT PLANT SALOCON, PANITAN, CAPIZ
Brief Description : 1,610KVA GENERATING SET (BRAND NEW)
Approved Budget for The Contract : Php10,348,000.00
Source of Funding : PROJECT EQUITY BY ADMINISTRATION
Contract Duration : 60 CALENDAR DAYS
Delivery Period : 60 CALENDAR DAYS

The Eligibility Check / Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check, will be opened. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations A (IRR-A).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Advertisement	September 5-19, 2006
2. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 20-October 3, 2006
3. Pre-bid Conference	October 4, 2006 @ 2:00 pm
4. Pre-qualification conference	October 14, 2006 @ 2:00 pm
5. Deadline for Submission of Bids	October 14, 2006 @ 2:00 pm
6. Opening of Bids	October 14, 2006 @ 2:00 pm
7. Bid Evaluation	October 21, 2006
8. Post-qualification	October 26, 2006
9. Notice of Award	October 31, 2006

SPECIFICATION:
Capacity : 1,610KVA 1,288 Kilowatts
Speed : 1,800 RFM
Frequency : 60 Cycles
Voltage : 240-480 Volts
Power Factor : 0.8
(Note: Other specification is stated at the Purchase Request)

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php7,000 to the METRO ROXAS WATER DISTRICT. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The METRO ROXAS WATER DISTRICT assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **GONZALO GLEN B. DELGADO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Sept. 7 & 14, 2006)

PHILRICE PHILRICE RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
ISO 14001

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The **Philippine Rice Research Institute**, through the Government of the Philippines intends to apply the sum of **ONE MILLION SEVENTY EIGHT THOUSAND PESOS AND 00/100 ONLY (PhP1,078,000.00)** being the approved budget for the contract for Public Bidding 06-0001. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The Philippine Rice Research Institute now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the **FABRICATION OF 250 PCS PLASTIC DRUM SEEDER (complete set)**. Delivery of Goods is required within three (3) months after receipt of the approved Purchase Order. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bid (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested bidders may inspect Bidding Documents and obtain further information from PhilRice located at Brgy. Maligaya, Science City of Munoz, Nueva Ecija during office hours from 9:00 to 5:00pm.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on September 11 to 14, 2006 during regular office hours from 8:00am to 5:00pm and on September 15, 2006 from 8:00am to 12:00noon upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS AND 00/100 ONLY (PhP5,000.00). The method of payment will be in form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative.
6. PhilRice will hold a pre-bid conference open to all interested parties on September 14, 2006; 2:00PM at PhilRice, Training Rm 3, Laboratory Bldg., Maligaya, Science City of Munoz, N.E.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted to the BAC thru the Supply Office on or before 25 September 2006, 1:45PM. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash, Manager's Check or Cashier's Check payable to PhilRice equivalent to one (1%) percent of the ABC or Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Pesos and 00/100 only (PhP10,780.00). Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on September 25, 2006 2:00PM at Training Room 3. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
9. PhilRice reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **HAZEL JANE M. ORGE**
Vice Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept. 7, 2006)

BUSINESS

World Bank unit seen extending $50-M loan for SLEX rehab

INTERNATIONAL FINANCE Corp., the investment arm of the World Bank, is expected to approve a $50-million loan for the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) rehabilitation project.

Vipul Bhagat, IFC country manager in the Philippines and Thailand, told reporters that the terms of the loan were still being finalized. He said it would likely be a long-term loan and that its interest rate would be benchmarked on commercial rates.

The loan will be granted to South Luzon Tollways Corp. (SLTC), which will take over the management and operations of the SLEX upon the completion of the rehabilitation work.

SLTC is a joint venture between Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) and MTD Capital of Malaysia.

SLEX, a network of three expressways, connects Metro Manila with the Calabarzon provinces. It starts in Manila's Paco district and ends in Lipa City, Batangas, 81 kilometers south of Manila. The first two expressways are operated by PNCC, while the third is operated by Star Infrastructure Development Corp.

Phase 1 of the expressway rehabilitation project involves the replacement of the Alabang Viaduct, rehabilitation and widening of the Alabang-Calamba segment, construction of the missing link (Calamba-Santo Tomas segment) and the integration of the Skyway, South Luzon Expressway and the Star Expressway as a single toll road.

Phase 2 involves the rehabilitation of the Santo Tomas-Lipa segment and the extension of the expressway to Batangas City. Phase 3 involves another extension from Santo Tomas to Lucena City in Quezon.

Upon completion of rehabilitation work , the driving time from Manila to the Port of Batangas will be reduced to about one hour from more than two hours.

Bhagat said the $50-million loan for this project represented half of the $100 million earmarked by IFC for the Philippines this year. *Michelle V. Remo*

UPON completion of the project, driving time from Manila to the Port of Batangas is expected to be shortened to about an hour from more than two hours.

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RP offers global bond swap

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY announced an exchange offer for its old global bonds of various maturities, as part of a debt management strategy that would stretch the average maturity of the country's external liabilities.

Offered for swapping are new global bonds due in 2024 and reopened 2031 bonds.

"The objective of this exercise is to clean and tidy up the yield curve," said National Treasurer Omar Cruz.

Cruz said the new offer would complement a previous exchange program that involved domestic treasury bonds.

In a press statement, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and JP Morgan Securities Inc.—the global bond exchange arrangers—said a total of $11.83 billion worth of old global bonds were eligible for exchange.

$11.83 billion in existing bonds eligible for exchange

The exchange offer would use the Dutch auction system, where the price is lowered gradually until a responsive bid is seen, according to the statement.

Bonds maturing in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015, October 2016, 2017, 2019, 2024 and 2025 will be exchanged for new 2024 amortizing bonds and the reopened 2031 bonds.

Interested investors have until 5 p.m. of Sept. 12 (New York time) to submit their bids. Results of the bond swap would be announced the following day.

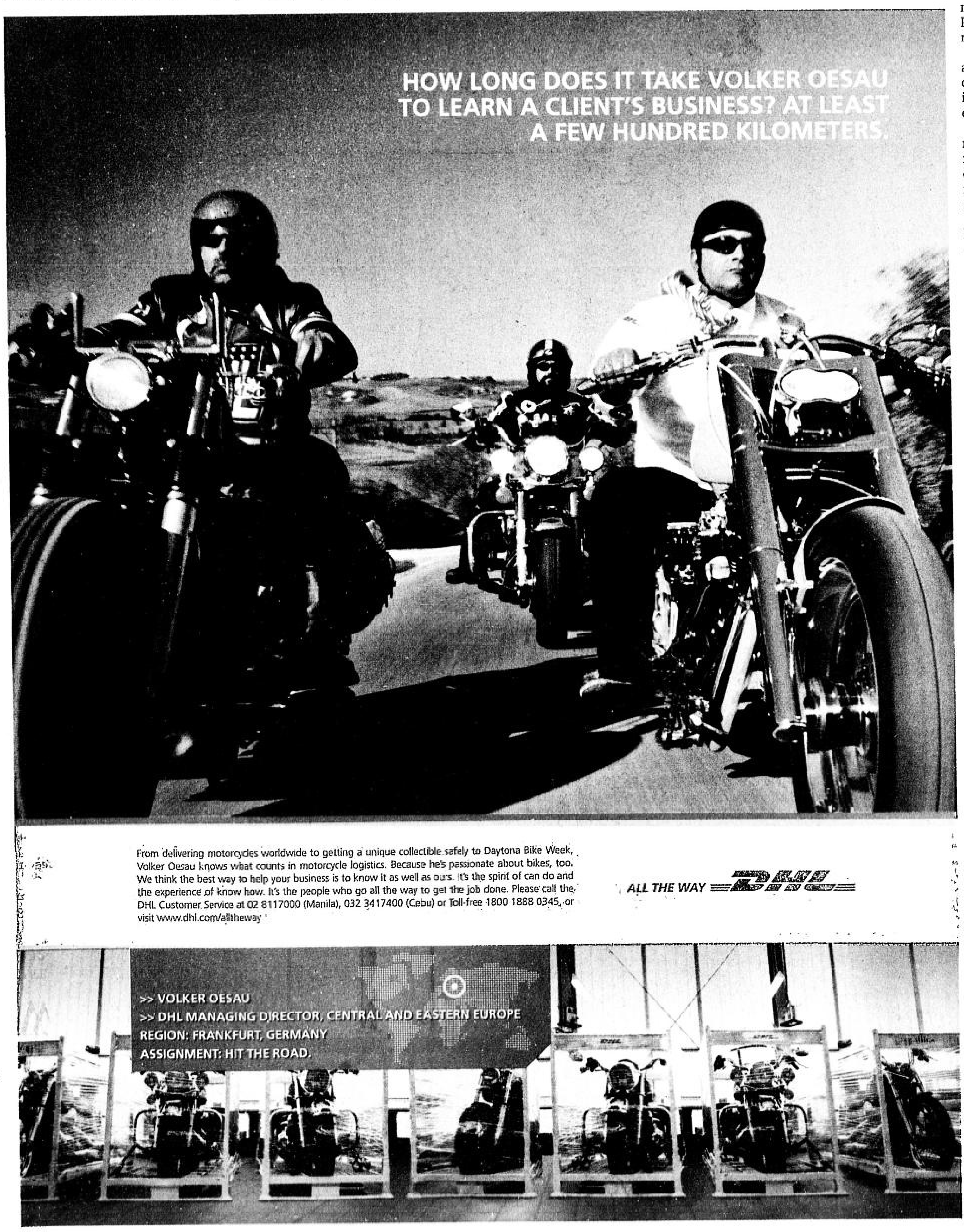
Under a bond swap, the government benefits by having the average maturity of its debts stretched while bond holders are likely to get higher yields on their investments. The Bureau of the Treasury, through the bids submitted by interested parties, determine the coupon rates for the new bonds.

The bond exchange is also aimed at boosting the liquidity and activity in the secondary market by consolidating bonds with various tenors into bonds of similar maturity dates. Last month, the Bureau of the Treasury swapped newly issued 10-year Treasury bonds for P54 billion worth of old government securities. In February and March, the agency likewise swapped newly issued 3-, 5- and 7-year T-bonds for P111 billion worth of old government securities.

Bond exchange was one of the strategies adopted by the government to manage its debts. The other involves raising the borrowings from domestic sources while reducing external debts.

For next year, the government intends to raise 67 percent of its borrowing requirements from domestic sources and only 33 percent from foreign creditors. This year's borrowing mix is 58:42 in favor of domestic sources.

Philippine dollar bonds rose yesterday following the announcement of the bond exchange offer.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CebuPac expects profit growth despite high costs

By Riza T. Olchondra

CEBU PACIFIC, THE COUNTRY'S SECOND largest airline, is optimistic it would manage to post income growth this year despite the continued increase in fuel prices, company president and CEO Lance Gokongwei said at the launch of the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year search on Wednesday.

Gokongwei told reporters that the carrier registered an 80-percent increase in traffic in the first half of this year from year ago level.

Cebu Pacific posted a net income of P33.76 million in the first semester, up from P30.7 million in the same period last year.

Revenue during the period amounted to P4.33 billion, or 7.7 percent higher than last year's P4.02 billion.

Last year, net income dropped to P78.2 million from P126.5 million in 2004.

Besides high passenger volume, the budget carrier also increased its ticket prices for international flights.

The Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) has approved the company's petition for an increase in fuel surcharge to $20 per passenger from $15 for its international flights.

Currently, Cebu Pac flies to Singapore, Hong Kong and Seoul, South Korea, in addition to its 17 domestic destinations.

The Gokongwei-led airline still has a pending petition for an increase in fuel surcharges on domestic flights to P990 from P850, for Luzon-Mindanao; P620 to P720, Luzon-Visayas; P450 to P550, within Luzon; P400 to P460, within Visayas; P550 to P610, within Mindanao, and P550 to P610, Visayas-Minadao.

Inez F. Jose, Cebu Pacific (CEB) manager for external affairs, said that due to the continued rise in fuel costs, the current level of fuel surcharges had to be adjusted for the airline to partially recover the added costs of operations.

A fuel surcharge is a temporary relief granted to airlines to enable them to recover losses arising from higher jet fuel prices.

Fuel accounts for one third of an airline's operating cost per passenger and is its second-highest expense next to labor.

IN THIS ISSUE

The military will want this NPA for a different reason /C2

LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) **or email us at** lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Recipe
LAVM.

ILLUSTRATION BY LA MISTADES

The little leaves are not the ingredients that go into the powder, an English invention designed to simulate the spices found in Indian cooking

Curry leaves and powder—same name, but not related

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

NO NEW DISCOVERIES SO we're back to Q&A on Kitchen Rescue.

I love cooking Indian food. But recipes that ask for curry leaves seem to limit my options. Once I was able to find a fresh pack in Rockwell supermarket but, unfortunately, I never saw it being sold there again. Some Indian groceries have them but only in dried form. I prefer using the fresh variety. Do you know where I can get them? Or, can I substitute something else that is readily available here? (Not for its flavor anymore but more for texture and presentation.) Hope you can help.

JESSIE

Curry leaves are widely used in Southern India, as well as in Sri Lanka, where the cuisine is predominantly vegetarian. Curry leaves are integral in both cuisine for authenticity in flavor.

These little leaves have nothing to do with curry powder. They are not the ingredients that go into curry powder. Curry powder is an English invention that simulates the spices found in Indian curries that commonly consist of roasted cumin, coriander, black pepper, chilies, roasted fenugreek, dried ginger, cinnamon, cloves, cardamom and turmeric. The spices are used fresh and dried.

Use fresh ingredients whenever possible. However, some Indian dishes require them to be used dried. Use young shiny leaves that are bright green. After harvesting them, you may keep them frozen or in a refrigerated container.

I store my herbs by wrapping them individually in paper towels then putting them inside an airtight container.

There are those who say that the leaves have a pungent curry aroma, while others liken them to sage. To me though, they are distinct; not quite one or the other.

So, Jessie, there are no substitutes for curry leaves. Why don't you try Sidcor or plant stores that sell herbs? I remember I used to see them being sold in those days when I was plant crazy.

Curry leaves are also used in traditional medicine for their curative properties. They are said to have the capacity to treat some skin conditions, digestive system problems, and diabetes. Their antidiabetic properties are supported by scientific research.

What is the difference between sherry and port? I see them in recipe books. Can I use any wine as a substitute?

PAULINE

Sherry, port and many dessert wines belong to the family of fortified wines. Meaning they are wines with brandy or other spirits. In the process, the alcohol content, as well as the sweetness, increases.

So be careful when you drink sweet wines. Chances are you will get drunk way faster!

Sherry originally came from Jerez in the Andalusia region of southern Spain and around it.

There are many sherries. Varieties are classified as: *Finos* (dry/light), *Manzanillas* (very dry), *Amontillados* (also known as the milky sherry, they are sweeter and darker in color than *Finos*), *Olorosos* (also known as golden or cream sherry, they are sweet, full-flavored and darker than dry or medium sherries, aged longer and more costly).

Drink dry sherries chilled and sweet sherries at room temperature.

Port/porto wine comes from the Douro Valley in northern Portugal. To date, the region is still the best port producer. The name given to this fortified wine stems from the fact that they are shipped from the Portuguese city of Oporto.

Ports are classified as: Vintage (the best kind, made from grapes of a single vintage and bottled within two years; some can age 50 years or more, making them the most expensive), late-bottled vintage (aged in wood for up to six years), and single vintage (aged in wood for up to seven years). The latter two are both made from less superior grapes and from a single vintage.

Tawny are so-called because they are tawny in color and are from a blend of grapes from several different years. Ruby ports (light and fruity) are considered the lowest grade of port.

Can you substitute? Again, sherry and port have very distinct character so substitutions will not produce the desired results. If you ask me, substitutions are like loving in half measures. When one loves, one must love all the way. So whenever and wherever possible, go for the real thing!

What is *pandan* in English?

MR. ALDO

Pandan is screwpine, the name comes from the way the plant grows, which is in a circular fashion. It is used for its distinct floral-type flavor and, sometimes, for color. It is also known as *pandanus, daun pandan* and *kewra*.

Is there such a thing as tabasco chili? Or is it just hot sauce?

EMMANUEL K.

Tabasco are very hot, small red peppers from Tabasco, Mexico. They are specifically used for making tabasco. The chilies are not readily available.

The McIlhenny family company owns the brand name and has been making the hot sauce since the 1800s.

Made from tabasco peppers, salt and vinegar, the sauce is fermented in barrels for three years.

Schedules

My new class schedules are out: Entertaining for the Holidays—The Catering Series Part 2 (for caterers and those who love to entertain); Things to Make, Give or Sell this Christmas; and the September-October cooking classes. Call 9289296 or 9273008.

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph

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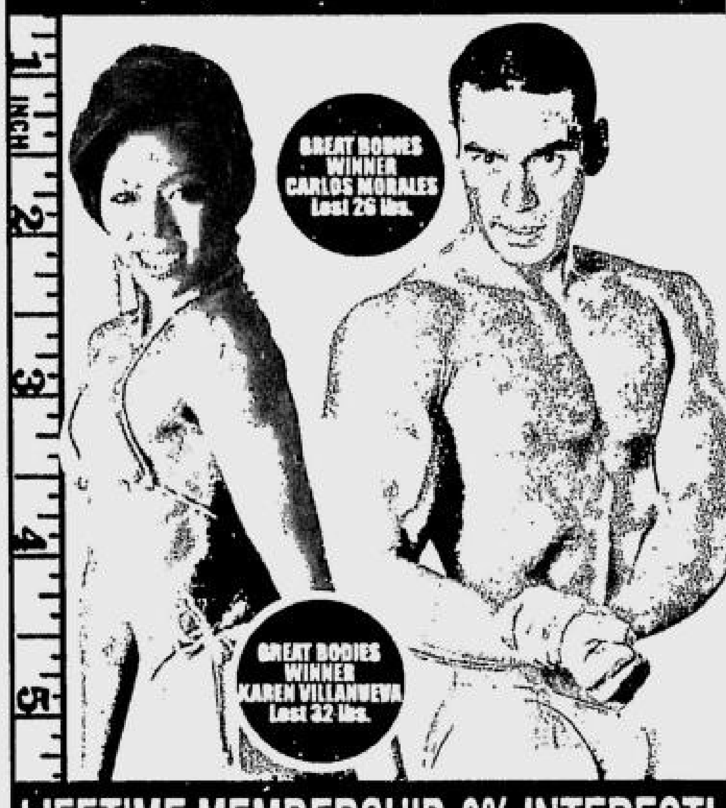
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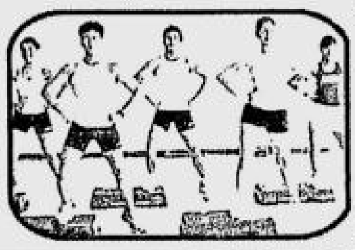

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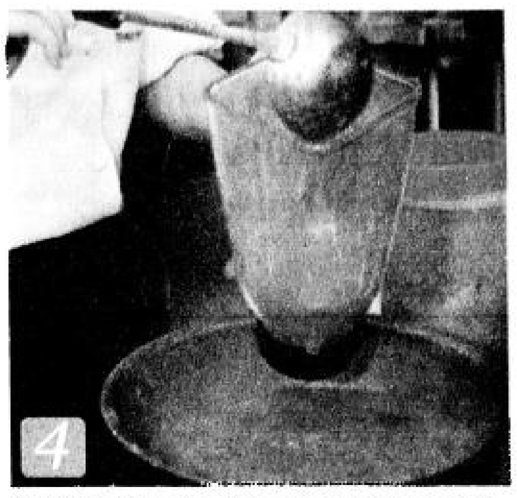
PREHEAT oven to 450°F. Place a greased baking tray or sheet inside the oven. When oven has reached desired temperature, place the pizza dough on the hot tray and bake for about 5 minutes. Let the pre-cooked pizza dough cool for a few minutes. Set aside.

TO MAKE the fruity tomato sauce, heat oil and sweat onions and garlic in a medium saucepan. Add tomato paste and peeled tomatoes.

ADD diced fruits and sugar. Season with salt and pepper. Add stock if the sauce appears to be too thick. Let the sauce simmer for 30 minutes. Adjust seasoning. Add fresh basil leaves.



TRANSFER contents to a blender and purée until smooth. Let it cool for a few minutes and store in the chiller until ready to use.

The NPA that isn't on the military's wanted list

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Ryan Lim

MANY PEOPLE FIND PIZZA IRRESISTIBLE—the aroma, the crust, the endless combinations of flavors used as toppings.

But there is no need to rush to the nearest pizza place or have a box delivered when the craving hits you. Sous chef Joan Limoanco of Dusit Hotel Nikko's Fiesta San Miguel (tel. 8673333) has come up with a uniquely Pinoy-style pizza that you can easily do at home.

The pizza is inexpensive and is ready in less time than it takes the delivery boy to show up with a lukewarm and soggy piece.

Limoanco calls this easy-to-do pizza NPA, short for Naiibang Pizza Aaahh! The thin-crust pizza dough is topped with fruity tomato sauce, mozzarella cheese, *kesong puti, longganisa, adobo* flakes, chilies and garlic. "Ingredients you can find in your cupboard and fridge," Limoanco says.

Leftover *longganisa* and *adobo* can be used, chopped into pieces and deep-fried. The pork provides the texture while the fruity sauce adds zest and character. The *kesong puti* makes the taste more exotic.

You can buy pizza dough in supermarkets and groceries. Pop it into a hot oven then add the topping. You can also make your own, using pizza dough recipes in cookbooks or Internet.

Limoanco's dough

Or you can try Limoanco's recipe. To make the pizza dough, you need about 5 g instant yeast, 5 g sugar, 10 g iodized salt, 500 ml milk, 30 ml olive oil, 1 kg bread flour, water and bread flour for kneading.

In a medium bowl, combine yeast, sugar, salt and milk. Let sit until foam appears on top. Combine the yeast mixture with the olive oil. Sift the flour into a large mixing bowl. Make a well in the center of the flour and gradually pour in the yeast mixture.

With a fork, gradually incorporate the liquid mixture into the flour until it forms into dough.

Transfer the dough onto a floured work surface and knead for 10-12 minutes or until the dough is smooth. Transfer dough to a large, oiled bowl and cover with plastic wrap. Allow to rise for one hour or until it has doubled its size. Punch down dough and allow to rise a second time. After it has risen the second time, the dough is ready to be divided and rolled, or stored in the freezer.

Pizza dough can be any shape you desire.

"Homemade pizza can be anything you want... there's no real reason to stick to formula," Limoanco says.

NPA— Naiibang Pizza Aaahh!

STEP BY STEP

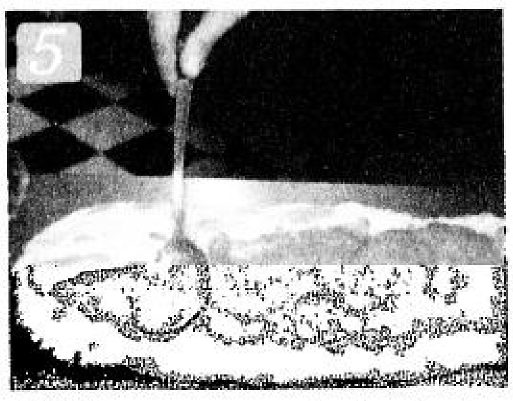
Even rebel hunters will likely enjoy chef Joan Limoanco's revolutionary creation

Ingredients

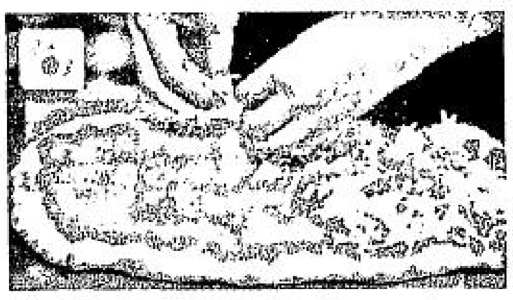
200 g pizza dough, divided and rolled out into 2
½ c fruity tomato sauce
1 c mozzarella cheese
½ c *kesong puti*, diced
2 pc *longganisa* meat filling, cooked
1 c *adobo* flakes
¼ c garlic, minced
Red chili peppers or chili flakes (optional)
Fresh basil leaves or cilantro, chiffonade

Fruity tomato sauce:
¼ c olive oil
100 g onions, diced
50 g garlic, minced
2 tbsp tomato paste
500 g canned peeled tomatoes, drained
1 pc ripe mango, small dice
1 c pineapple, diced
Sugar, salt and pepper to taste
10 g fresh basil leaves, chiffonade

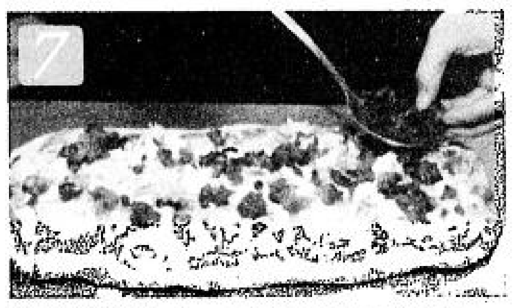
For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



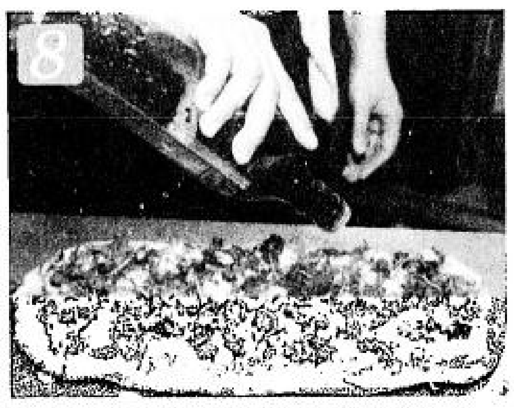
SPREAD tomato sauce on the pizza dough.



SPRINKLE with mozzarella cheese and *kesong puti*.



ARRANGE the *longganisa* meat and *adobo* flakes on top of the cheese. Sprinkle with garlic, chili peppers and basil leaves.



DRIZZLE with a little olive oil and put the pizza dough back in the oven.

BAKE for 5-10 minutes.

CUT and serve immediately.

SANDWICH Deluxe

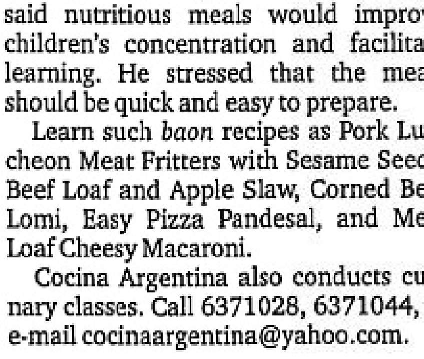
Recipes for nutritious 'baon'

COCINA ARGENTINA, THE CULINARY club of Pacific Meat Company Inc. (PMCI), has come up with Lunchbox Attack recipes to help mothers plan their children's *baon*.

PMCI marketing director Raffy Lantin said nutritious meals would improve children's concentration and facilitate learning. He stressed that the meals should be quick and easy to prepare.

Learn such *baon* recipes as Pork Luncheon Meat Fritters with Sesame Seeds, Beef Loaf and Apple Slaw, Corned Beef Lomi, Easy Pizza Pandesal, and Meat Loaf Cheesy Macaroni.

Cocina Argentina also conducts culinary classes. Call 6371028, 6371044, or e-mail cocinaargentina@yahoo.com.



MEAT Loaf Cheesy Macaroni

Exciting sandwich meals

THE SAN MIGUEL PUREFOODS Culinary Center offers recipes that will make sandwich meals filling and exciting, too.

Try My Cheezee Army Navy, Tomato Tinapa Cheese Toast, Crispy Crab Buns and Bananarama.

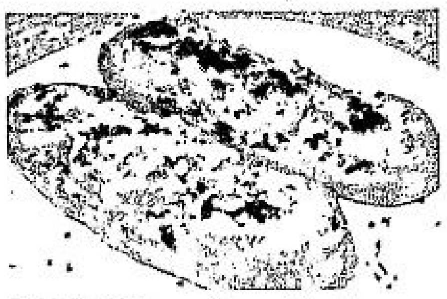
For more recipes, log on to www.mygreatfood.com.

Tomato Tinapa Cheese Toast

1 pc mini baguette, half a slice
1 tbsp Dari Crème Classic
3 pc tomatoes
2 tbsp *tinapa*, flaked
2 tbsp Magnolia Quickmelt Cheese, grated
1 tsp parsley, chopped

On each half slice of the baguette, spread butter, then top with the tomato slices, flaked *tinapa* and grated Magnolia Quickmelt cheese. Place inside a preheated oven toaster. Allow the Quickmelt cheese to brown slightly. This will take about 5-7 minutes (on medium heat setting). When done, remove from oven toaster and top with the chopped parsley.

Serves one.



TOMATO Tinapa Cheese Toast

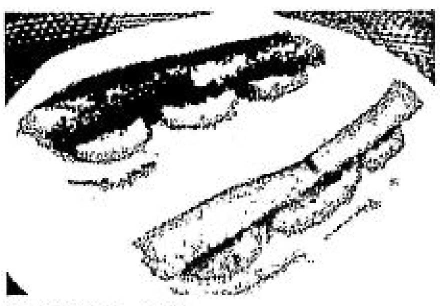
My Cheezee Army Navy

3 pc sliced loaf bread, edges removed
2 pc Purefoods Cooked Ham
3 strips Purefoods Honeycured Bacon
1 tbsp Magnolia Nutri-oil
1 pc egg, beaten
½ c Magnolia Cheezee Spread Pimiento
¼ c Magnolia Fresh Milk
1 tsp parsley, chopped

Arrange bread slices on a plate or chopping board (bread may be toasted if you wish). Place the bacon strips in a frying pan (preferably a nonstick pan) and, over low heat, cook until crispy (no need to add oil). Set aside on plate with paper towels. In another pan, heat the oil over low flame. Cook the beaten egg, and set aside when done. Place the Cheezee Spread in a sauce pan and bring to a gentle simmer. Slowly add milk and blend well. To assemble, fold the cooked egg to form a square and place on one slice of bread. Top with bacon strips and cover with second slice of bread. Place two slices of ham on top of the second slice to form a layer, and finally, top with the third slice of bread. Transfer the sandwich to a serving plate and pour the heated Cheezee Spread on the sandwich. Sprinkle chopped parsley on heated Cheezee Spread.

Serves one.

MY CHEEZEE Army Navy



CRISPY Crab Buns

Crispy Crab Buns

½ c Purefoods Baron All-purpose Flour
1 pc egg, beaten
1 c Japanese bread crumbs
2 pc crabsticks (*kani*)
onions, sliced into 3 rings
4 cups Magnolia Nutri-oil Palm Oil
2 tbsp Magnolia Cheezee Spread
1 pc hotdog bun
1 pc lettuce leaf

Heat the oil in a deep fryer (160-170°C). Meanwhile, place the flour, beaten egg and Japanese bread crumbs in three separate containers. Dredge the crabsticks in flour, beaten egg and finally the bread crumbs. Deep-fry the crabsticks in the heated oil until golden in color. When done, place crabsticks on a plate with paper towels to drain off excess oil. Do the same procedure with the onion rings. Spread Magnolia Cheezee on the hotdog bun (you may toast the bun for a few minutes if you wish) and place the fried crabsticks, fried onions and lettuce leaf onto the bun.

Serves one.

Bananarama (on sandwich maker)

2 pc sliced loaf bread
1 pc medium-size banana (ripe)
1 tbsp Star Margarine Sweet Blend
1/8 tsp cinnamon powder

Place the banana, Star Sweet Blend and cinnamon powder in a bowl and mash together. Make sure all ingredients are mixed well. Spread mixture onto one slice of bread and top with the other slice. Place sandwich onto sandwich maker and cook/toast until done (light on sandwich maker will automatically shut off when done).

Serves one.

A peso saved isn't always a good thing

By Linda B. Bolido

THE CONSUMER

THE TAGALOGS HAVE A saying, "*Naghangad ng kagitna, 'sang salop ang nawala.*" You may think you are being a wise consumer by buying a mobile-phone battery from a sidewalk vendor or a mall *tiangge* but trying to save a few pesos may cost you so much more later.

Not very long ago, a fire in Metro Manila was found to be caused by an overheated cell-phone battery that someone was recharging. The battery, according to the cell phone owner, cost only P50 but the resulting damage to property (fortunately there were no casualties) was estimated in the hundreds of thousands.

As the newsletter of the Department of Trade of Industry Region XII warns, "*Ang inaakala nilang pagtitipid, sa isang banda ay labis na pag-aaksaya dahil ang mga pekeng produkto, kahit ano pa ito, ay nagdudulot ng higit na gastos at kapahamakan kalaunan.*"

The DTI warned that, because of poor quality, the fake battery could explode and start a fire because it did not have the safety features that genuine articles possessed.

DTI also stressed that any product, including genuine articles, should be used properly to make sure they functioned as they should and were safe. Cell-phone batteries should be used only in accordance with the instruction in their user's manual.

Batteries should be kept away from metallic things like keys and loose change. They should not be placed in areas where they are exposed to heat and water. Tampering with the battery and/or applying pressure on it could result in a short circuit.

Avoid plastic

The Ecological Waste Coalition is undertaking a public education campaign on the threats plastics pose to health and environment, and the need for its proper use and disposal. Plastic clog waterways can remain in the environment unchanged for years and years.

The coalition offers some ways to reduce the use of plastic :

1. Bring a cloth bag or *bayong* when shopping.
2. Clean used plastic and give it to your *suki* so he/she will not have to buy new bags.
3. Encourage fast-food chains to serve food in regular dining plates, glasses and utensils.
4. Segregate waste. Reduce, recycle and reuse.
5. Find other uses for plastic containers, bottles, packaging material, etc.
6. Encourage manufacturers to take responsibility for the plastic packaging they create and encourage local politicians to introduce measures providing incentives for reducing use of plastic.

If you want to join the campaign or want more information, e-mail Merci Ferrer at merci.ferrer@gmail.com, or visit www.noharm.org.

Happy consumers

Our thanks to Horace Lavides, head of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company's public affairs office, for getting the company's technicians to attend to two problems referred to this column.

Reader Rosanna Lorenzana's is a happy PLDT client once again. After her two phones went dead, Lorenzana was beginning to feel nobody at PLDT was listening to her problem after several reports seemingly went unnoticed.

Also grateful that PLDT finally fixed the problem with his DSL connection is reader Miguel Javier. The reader said he had been calling up PLDT DSL's customer service but got no positive feedback. A team of technicians visited their house to check their connection but found that the problem had to be sorted out in the main office. What annoyed Javier was, after that visit, he did not hear from the technicians or PLDT again.

Our regular columnist, Marietta V. Giron, is indisposed. Please send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph —**Editor**

New food place in Parañaque

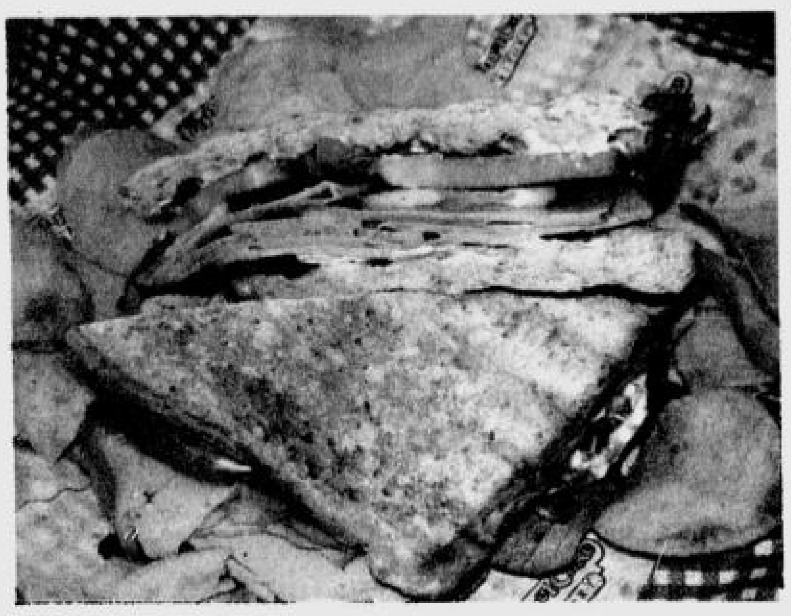
FUNNEL CAKE FACTORY HAS opened on Presidents Avenue in BF Homes, Parañaque City.

Funnel cakes, originally associated with the Pennsylvania Dutch region of the United States, are available in different flavors and toppings of caramel almond, cinnamon, nutty choco loco, peanut butter banana, mango graham and tuna cheese.

Funnel Cake Factory also offers funnel cake fondue, three-piece cakes topped with banana and powdered sugar and using Toblerone as chocolate fondue.

The place also serves breakfast and lunch items such as triple-ham sandwich, Hungarian hotdog sandwich and pesto pasta.

Also visit Funnelcake Factory at the third floor of Festival Supermall Alabang, Muntinlupa City.



TRIPLE Ham Sandwich

Baked goodies as holiday gifts

CLASSES

DOROTHY'S COOKING SCHOOL will conduct classes on items for business or personal gifts during holidays. The morning session on Sept. 9 will cover popular bar cookies like brownies and butterscotch, while easy-to-do quickbreads and drunken cakes will be taught in the afternoon. New cakes such as Brazo Cake with Peaches and Cream and Green Tea and Chocolate Marble Cake will be featured on Sept. 12, while spreads, dips and breads will be covered on Sept. 14. A whole-day *kakanin* class, that will include *suman*, *ube* recipes, cassava recipes, tamales, etc., will be held Sept. 16.

Call 7217735 or 4167968; or e-mail fedora@tri-isys.com.

Honey of a class

The Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts offers the following classes: Sept. 13: Just Love You, Honey! (all new)—Salad with three Honey Dressing Variations, Lamb Leg Honey Roast with Honey Mint Sauce, Honey Balsamic Roast Chicken Thighs, Honey Soy Chicken, Honey Garlic Ribs, Honey Coffee Cake, sides.

Sept. 15—All About Mushrooms (all new)—Mushroom Flan Salad, Mushroom Carpaccio, Smoked Cream of Portobello Soup, Carbonara with Portobello and Mascarpone, Chicken Saltimboca, Veal Scallopini with Madeira and Mushrooms, dessert.

Sept. 16—Pasta Combinations (all new)—Hungarian Ghoulash with Homemade Spaetzle, Homemade Squash Gnocchi with Pork Ragout, Delicious Parmesan Chicken Steak with Beef Noodle and Mushroom Bake, Shrimp Cakes with Phad Thai Spaghetti.

Sept. 18—Mongolian (all new)—Mongol-style Noodles, Mongolian Barbecue with Everything on It, Mongol Hot Pot (meat and seafood), Mongolian Beef and Lamb Roast.

Sept. 20—Sandwiches for Kids (perfect for recess)—Mixed Cold Cuts with Cream Cheese and Jelly, Shrimps Salad Sandwich, Cobb Salad, Ham and Egg Butter, Whipped Pimiento, Pate Butter, Waldorf Chicken Sandwich Spread, Tuna Ranch Salad, Chicken Asparagus Caesar. Bonus: Deliciously Soft Bread Rolls.

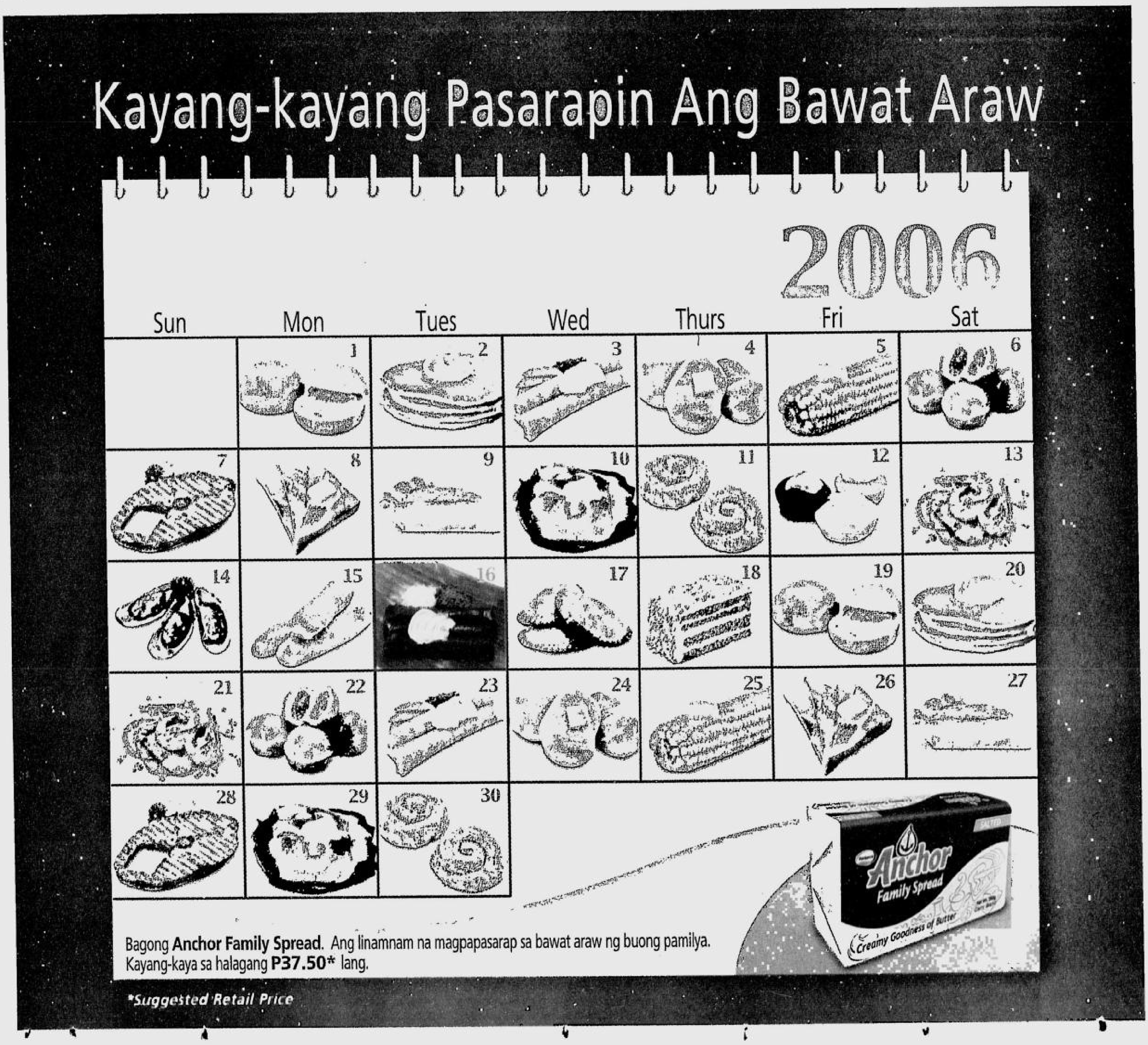
Call 9289296, 9273008 or 6335162.

Managing a food business

ProActive Center is now accepting participants to its Small Business Management Modules (SBMM) on "Managing a Restaurant/Canteen Seminar-Workshop" and the "Managing a Catering Business Workshop" on Sept. 18-22, at ProActive Center, Unit 1203 Antel Global Corporate Center, Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Complex, Pasig City.

Registration is on going on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 6673369/70 or 0915-4315375. Seminar fee is inclusive of manual and handouts, workshop materials, and certificate of completion.

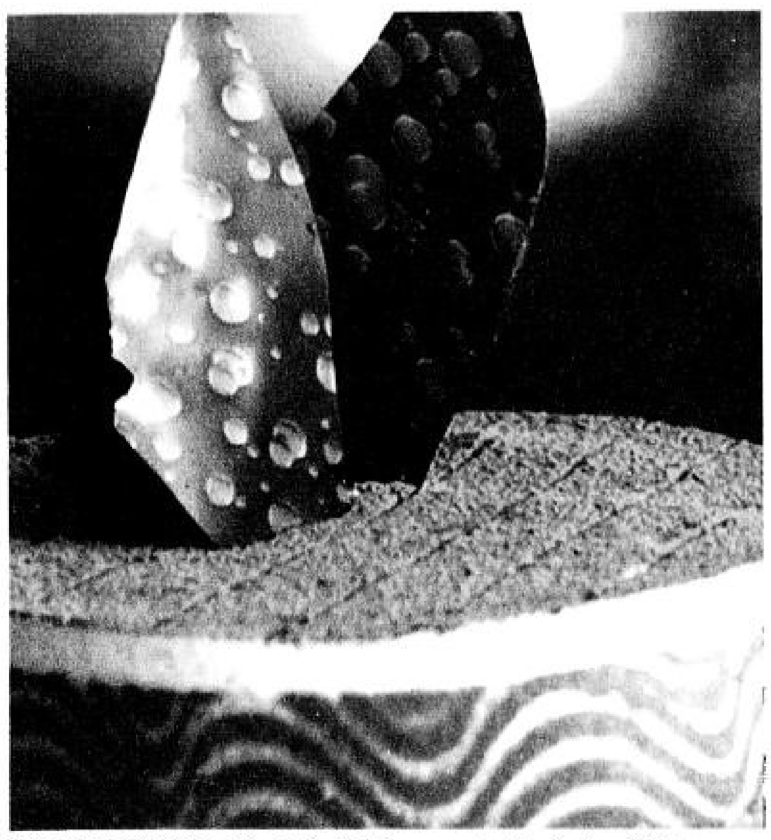
Workshops cover topics such as planning the concept, menu, location, layout and equipment; hygiene and sanitation; human resource development; costing, pricing and cost control among others.



Bagong **Anchor Family Spread**. Ang linamnam na magpapasarap sa bawat araw ng buong pamilya.
Kayang-kaya sa halagang **P37.50*** lang.

*Suggested Retail Price

Award-winning recipes



THE BELLEVUE Hotel's Cafe d' Asie presents the taste of West Mediterranean—Spanish, French and Italian dishes consisting of Zarzuela de Mariscos, Arroz con Pollo, Paupiette de Boeuf, Quennelles de Langoustine and Caldereta de Cordero, Sept. 18-23. On Sept. 25-30, sample Eastern Mediterranean dishes from Greece, Turkey, Lebanon and Egypt. Dishes include Greek Shrimps, Kofta Kebab, Eggplant Mousakah, Greek Spanakopitas and Syrian Apricot Chicken. The hotel's Cake of the Month is the Green Tea Tiramisu. Call 7718181.

DINING OUT

AWARD-WINNING RECIPES BY JONATHAN Labadan and Nilo Baclea-an are being offered at Super Bowl for a limited time. Labadan's Chicken Egg Drop Soup and Baclea-an's Three Cup Chicken won top honors in the Soup and Main Course categories, respectively.

The 30-year-old Labadan is head chef in the SM North Edsa branch. Baclea-an, 32, is head chef of Super Bowl United Nations Avenue.

Other new dishes available for a limited time include Scallops Dumplings, Diced Chicken with Mango Fried Rice, Sesame Pork Asado Roll, Deep Fried Cuttlefish with Sweet and Spicy Sauce, Spicy Pork Belly with Beancurd Chinese Style and Braised Pork with Broccoli.

HYATT REGENCY Manila's Café Al Fresco features Mexican culinary arts Sept. 12-26.

Chefs Luis Alfonso Ramirez Canul and Sergio Alejandro Turriza Trejo of Hyatt Regency Merida in Yucatan, Mexico, are presenting a sampling of authentic Mexican cuisine in a buffet spread available for P885+ per person. The chefs will create the famous Poc Chuc-Yucatan, Pollo Pibil and Pescado a la Veracruzana, among others.

RASA at the Araneta Circle, Araneta Coliseum offers a taste of Singapore's cuisine.

The Rasa Sampler offers a mix of Sambal *kangkong*, crispy squid, *satay* chicken and pork, served with spicy curry sauce. Appetizers include Popiah (Singaporean spring rolls), Sambal Chili Tofu, and Stir-fried Sambal Kangkong. Rasa also serves Hainanese Chicken, Singaporean Chili Crab and Chicken Five-Foot Way Trilogy, among others.

Other specialties are Bah Kut Teh, Garlic Chili Spareribs, Singapore-style Chicken Curry, and Beef Kwey Teow. Noodle lovers can try Laksa with rich spicy coco gravy.

THE CENTURY Park Hotel celebrates its 30th anniversary with its Café in the Park and Unsui Japanese Restaurant discounts. Diners also get Century at 30! anniversary coupons when they have the lunch or dinner buffet at Café in the Park or any of the Business Lunch menu choices at Unsui. The coupons give them a chance to win various prizes and hotel gift certificates. Palm Grove Snack Bar offers all-you-can-eat soup and salad on all Saturdays and Sundays of September, 12 noon-4 p.m., at P300 net per person. The Deli Snack is giving away free pralines for a minimum single receipt of P1,976 net. Every transaction receipt of P300 net also entitles customers to a Century at 30! anniversary coupon. The Century Seafood Restaurant will give away a coupon worth P200 for every P1,000 net a la carte menu receipt. Call 5288888.

THE HERITAGE Hotel, in cooperation with Tourism Malaysia, has extended Restaurant Riviera's Malaysia... Truly Asia's Kitchen food promo up to Sept. 15. The festival will be followed by "Go Gaga Over Noodles" food promo Sept. 16-30. Try Heritage High Tea 3-5:30 p.m. daily at P330+ per person. The September cake of the month is Oreo Choco Cheesecake at P750+. Call 8548888.

RICHMONDE Grill's all-day dining menu features executive sous chef Ed Santos' Tres Filletes recipe, a medley of choice fillets of lamb, chicken and beef cooked with lamb jus, tomato and holandaise sauce, served with vegetables and baked potato. The Chef's Recommendation is priced at P325+. Call 6387777 or 6898419.

CHEF Nilo Baclea-an presents Braised Pork with Broccoli, one of Super Bowl's new dishes.

Wine, cheese and art

CHATEAU 1771 presents No Borders CulTour Festival—A Celebration of Friendship with Wine, Cheese and a Cultural Exhibit, 6 p.m., Sept. 15-Oct. 14.

The event is being held in partnership with Alliance Française de Manille, Goethe-Institut Manila, British Council, Instituto Cervantes, Embassy of Australia and Embassy of the Swiss Confederation.

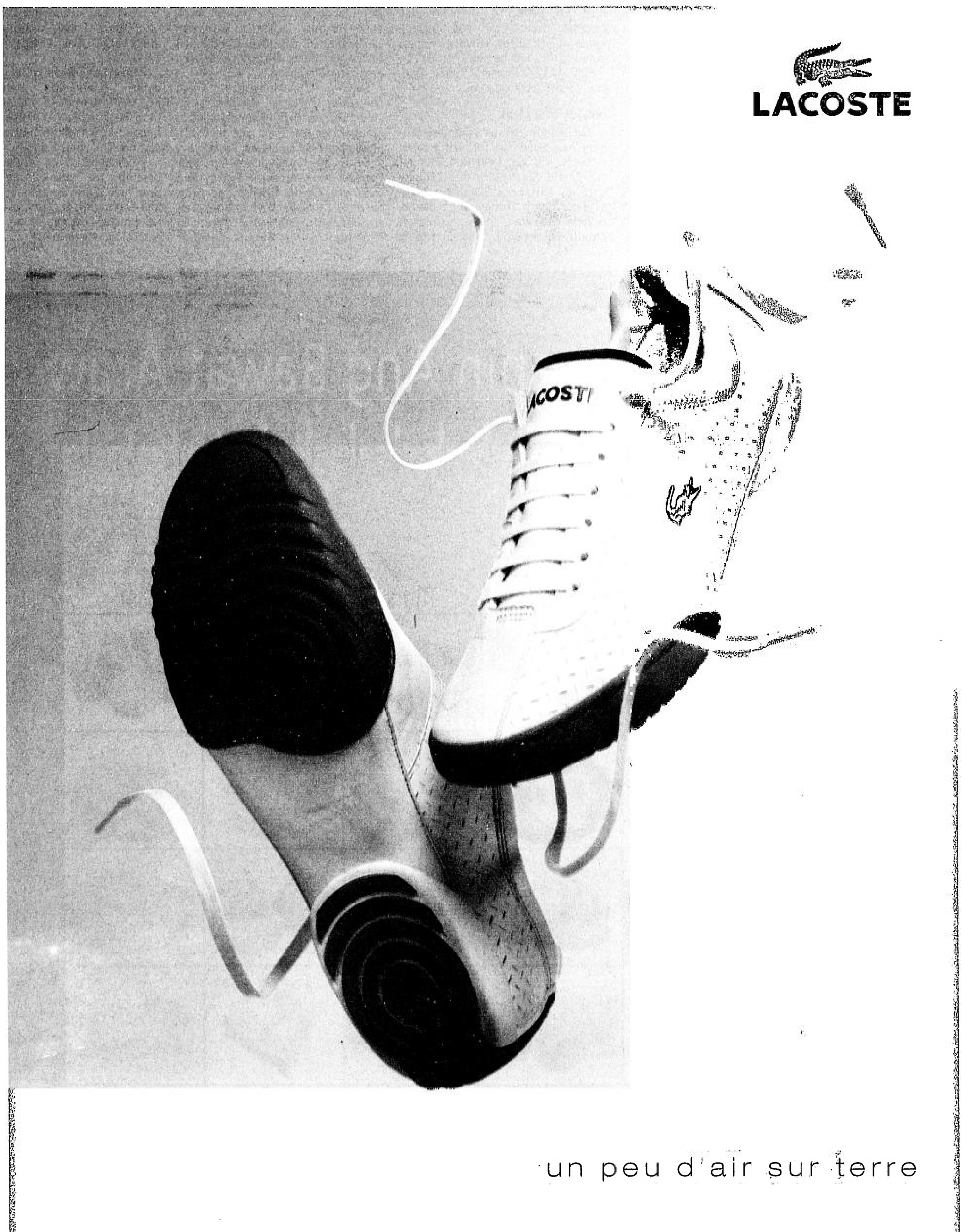
Guests can enjoy the cheese selection at P550+ per plate, good for 3-4 persons. Wines are available at P600+ a bottle.

Alliance Française will provide a selection of photos from the exhibition of artist Juan Caguicla, "Regards Croises: Parispace/Paristreet." The Australian embassy will mount a photo exhibit on 60 years of Australian-Philippine Relations, and the Swiss embassy will provide some brochures and posters.

The Goethe-Institut will display a book collection on German art and culture, while the British Council will put up an exhibit of collaborative works by British designers and Filipino manufacturers. Instituto Cervantes will present a book collection on Spanish art and culture.

Call 6320008 or 6321435. For reservations, call 6317340-41.

Chateau 1771 El Pueblo, a member of the Chateau 1771 Group of Restaurants, is at El Pueblo Real de Manila, ADB Avenue corner Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

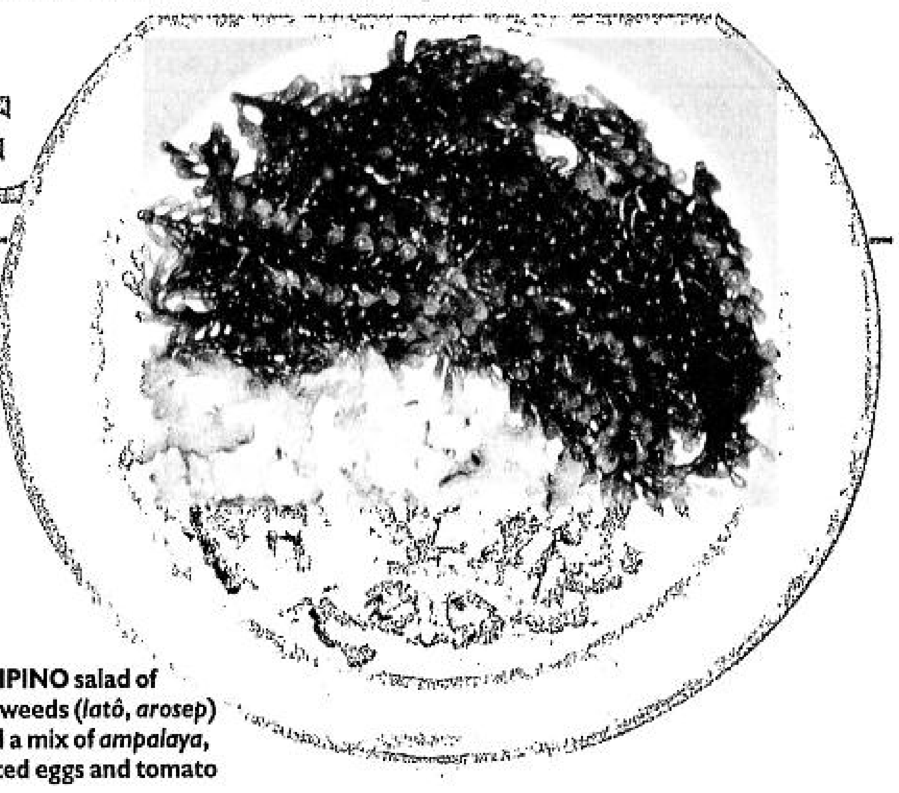


Token for men
www.lacoste.com
• Shangri-la Plaza Mall, Tel. No. 635-0744 • Glorietta 3, Tel. No. 867-4077 • Robinsons Place Manila, Tel. No. 522-7778
• The Podium, Tel. No. 633-8226 • The Gateway Mall, Tel. No. 912-5726 • Robinsons Galleria, Tel. No. 638-8020 • The Power Plant Mall, Tel. No. 898-0933
• SM Mall of Asia, Tel. No. 556-0470 • SM City Davao, Tel. No. (082) 297-2510 • Ayala Center Cebu, Tel. No. (032) 232-5455

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

GRILLED prawns with rice and seaweeds



FILIPINO salad of seaweeds (*latô*, *arosep*) and a mix of *ampalaya*, salted eggs and tomato

CLEANSE YOUR BODY OF
TOXINS
It may save your life.
See it to believe...
Try it to experience...
Live with it...
As a Lifetime Health Investment!
Sexual Health Problems
Slow metabolism & immune system
Diabetes
Soreness
High-blood pressure
Swollen joints & tissue
Stress
High cholesterol
Skin problem
Insomia
Allergies
Arthritis
Athletic injuries
Cold hand and feet
Fatigue
Headaches
Heavy metal toxicity
Risk of Cancer
DETOX SERVICES based on German Health Technology:
Lymphatic Detox Therapy • Colon Detox Therapy •
Liver Detox Therapy • Vita Detox Program for Weight Loss
DETOX CENTERS:
BIOMEDIX Clinic, 3rd Level Body Senses Area, West Wing
Robinsons Galleria, Ortigas (Wed and Sat: 3-6 p.m.) 0917-8911499
MIND,BODY&SOUL, 2nd level Robinsons Starmills,
San Fernando, Pampanga (045) 636-3610

Lost and found in translation

WE LOVE TO SHORTEN our food combinations into single names—*tapsilog* for *tapa* with *sinangag* and *itlog*; *longsilog* for *longanisa* with *sinangag* and *itlog*. The list goes on and on. Some are real food partnerships. Others are invented because the shortened versions sound rather risqué, words you'd never hear in polite conversations. Good for a laugh and nothing more.

My favorite is *sutokil*, sometimes also spelled as *sutukil*. It's an inspired contraction of three kinds of cooking—*sugba*, *tinola* and *kinilaw*. It's also a play on the English phrase (shoot to kill), something Filipinos love to do.

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

The three words are Visayan. *Sugba* is to charcoal-broil. *Tinola* is *sinigang*. *Kinilaw* is cooking with vinegar but without heating.

Being a Tagalog, I was confused the first time I tried to equate the new words of cooking I had just learned. When I said that their *sugba* was our *inihaw*, I was told that Visayan *ihaw* meant to slaughter. Somewhere along the way from north to south, the cooking had turned to mere preparation.

Fresh ingredients

My first taste of *tinola* made me appreciate the freshness of the *alumahan* (mackerel) I was having. But *tinola* was boiled chicken with green papaya and *sili* leaves in my Tagalog family. Adding to the confusion, my Cebuana friend cooked me *tinola* of *maya maya* (red snapper) head and she called it *tinowa*.

My Cebuana friend also introduced me to *kinilaw*. I thought it was the most exotic food I ever tasted. Still-firm *tanguigue* (Spanish mackerel) in cubes were bathed first in vinegar then squeezed. Salt, crushed pepper and chili were added. The dish was soured some more with *calamansi*, then sweetened with coconut milk.

It sounded like but wasn't the *kilawin* of banana heart or pork we used to do at home where the ingredients were first cooked before vinegar was mixed in.

Edilberto Alegre describes *kinilaw* as "just a step away from its raw, uncooked state. If prepared with vinegar, it is transformed from rawness." ("Kinilaw: A Philippine Cuisine of Freshness," 1991).

Later on, it was great to discover that the *kilawin* method up north was also like the *kinilaw* down south. Sometimes, like the jumping salad of the Ilocos, so called because the shrimps are still alive, the process doesn't include marinating in vinegar but using the vinegar as a dipping sauce.

Sutokil is no longer new or a strange contraction to Filipinos up north. It may need some explaining, however, when foreigners see it as the name of one of the outlets of the Mabuhay Manor (2933 F.B. Harrison corner Ortigas Streets, Pasay City).

The hotel targets mostly *balikbayan* and the rooms are designed with the Filipino traveler in mind—big enough to accommodate *balikbayan* boxes and allow guests to entertain friends and family. Many foreign guests find their way there, as spouses of Filipinos or as members of tour groups.

Good choice

In three syllables, *sutokil* practically summarizes our favored ways of cooking. I suppose then, it is a good choice for a name.

Sutokil is an outdoor dining place near the swimming pool. It's open only in the evening for two reasons. First, the chef, Carlo Santiago, thinks his main ingredients should always be fresh and should spend no time in freezers. Since he goes to market in the afternoon, that decided when the restaurant should be open. Second, the temperature outdoors in the evening is kinder to diners.

The elongated kitchen exhibits the ingredients, the better to show everyone not only the freshness but also the variety of seafood available.

That evening, the grill was busy cooking or-

LOST/ D3

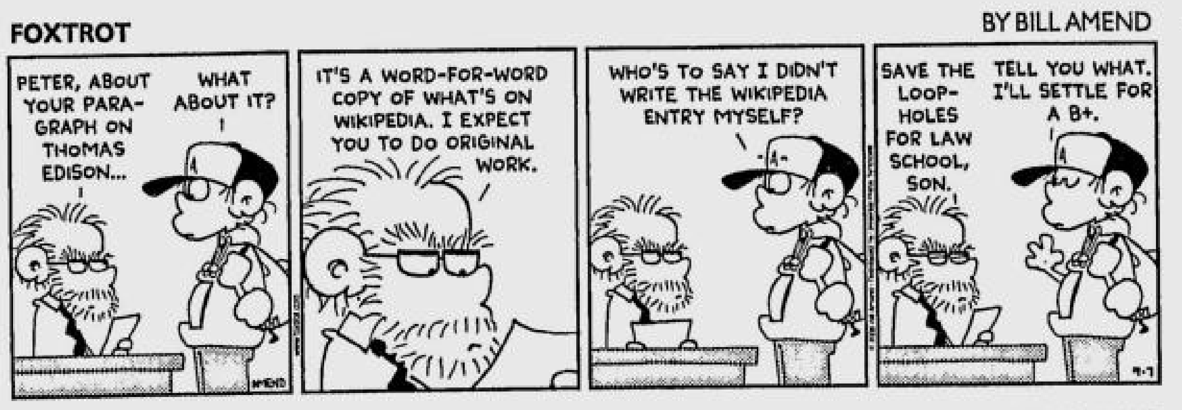
Kapag sumugod ang batalyon, siguradong busog!
Buti na lang, may malaking Blue Bay Tuna 180 grams na!
Gawa mula sa sariwang tuna kaya
manamis-namis, malaman, sa halagang abot-kaya.
BLUE BAY Hot and Spicy TUNA
BLUE BAY Flakes in Vegetable Oil TUNA
Ganyan magmahal pag Nanay ka.

COMICRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

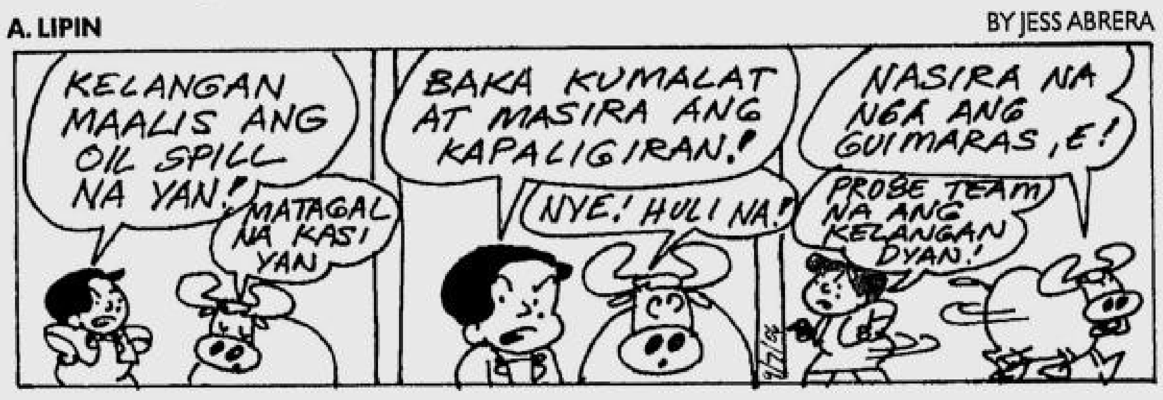
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


PETER, ABOUT YOUR PARAGRAPH ON THOMAS EDISON...
WHAT ABOUT IT?
IT'S A WORD-FOR-WORD COPY OF WHAT'S ON WIKIPEDIA. I EXPECT YOU TO DO ORIGINAL WORK.
WHO'S TO SAY I DIDN'T WRITE THE WIKIPEDIA ENTRY MYSELF?
SAVE THE LOOPHOLES FOR LAW SCHOOL, SON.
TELL YOU WHAT. I'LL SETTLE FOR A B+.
AMEND
9-7

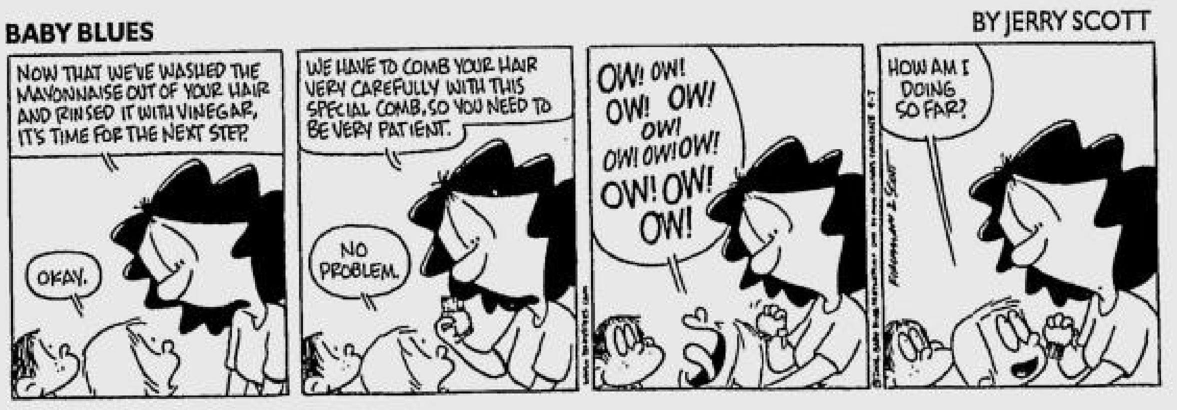
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KELANGAN MAALIS ANG OIL SPILL NA YAN!
MATAGAL NA KASI YAN
BAKA KUMALAT AT MASIRA ANG KAPALIGIRAN!
NYE! HULI NA!
NASIRA NA NGA ANG GUIMARAS, E!
PROBE TEAM NA ANG KELANGAN DYAN!

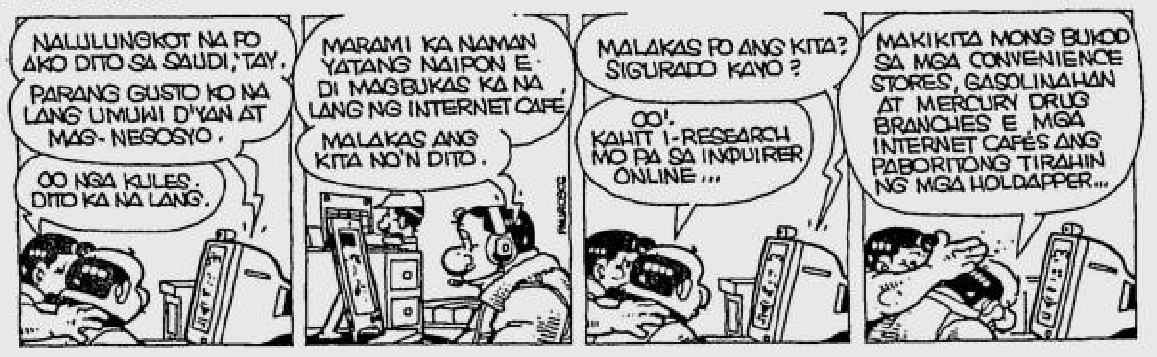
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


NOW THAT WE'VE WASHED THE MAYONNAISE OUT OF YOUR HAIR AND RINSED IT WITH VINEGAR, IT'S TIME FOR THE NEXT STEP.
OKAY.
WE HAVE TO COMB YOUR HAIR VERY CAREFULLY WITH THIS SPECIAL COMB, SO YOU NEED TO BE VERY PATIENT.
NO PROBLEM.
OW! OW! OW! OW! OW! OW! OW! OW! OW! OW! OW!
HOW AM I DOING SO FAR?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

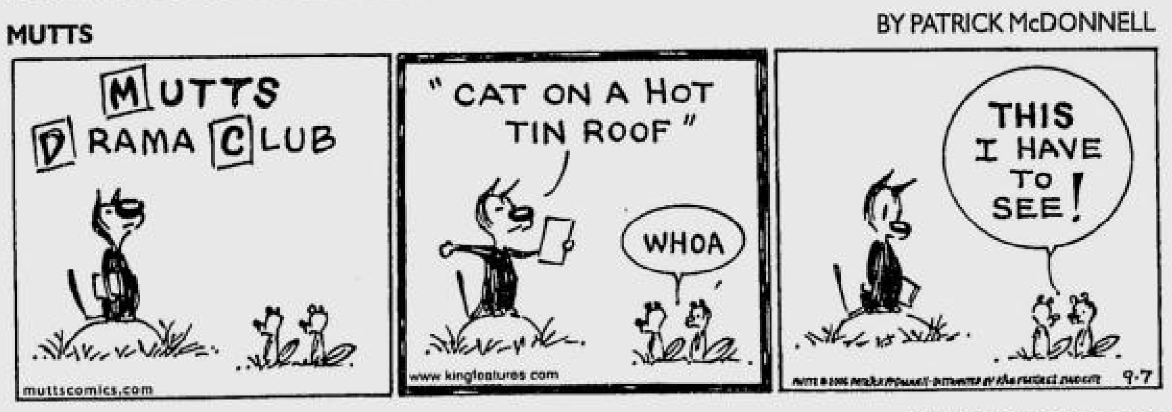
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NALULUNGKOT NA PO AKO DITO SA SAUDI, 'TAY.
PARANG GUSTO KO NA LANG UMUWI D'YAN AT MAG-NEGOSYO.
OO NGA KULES. DITO KA NA LANG.
MARAMI KA NAMAN YATANG NAIPON E. DI MAGBUKAS KA NA LANG NG INTERNET CAFE
MALAKAS ANG KITA NO'N DITO.
MALAKAS PO ANG KITA? SIGURADO KAYO?
OO!. KAHIT I-RESEARCH MO PA SA INQUIRER ONLINE...
MAKIKITA MONG BUKOD SA MGA CONVENIENCE STORES, GASOLINAHAN AT MERCURY DRUG BRANCHES E MGA INTERNET CAFÉS ANG PABORITONG TIRAHIN NG MGA HOLDAPPER...

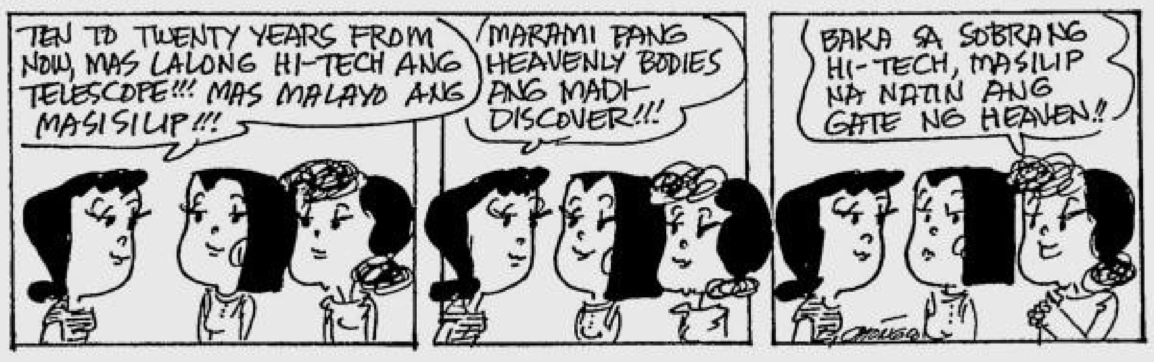
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MUTTS DRAMA CLUB
"CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF"
WHOA
THIS I HAVE TO SEE!
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
9-7

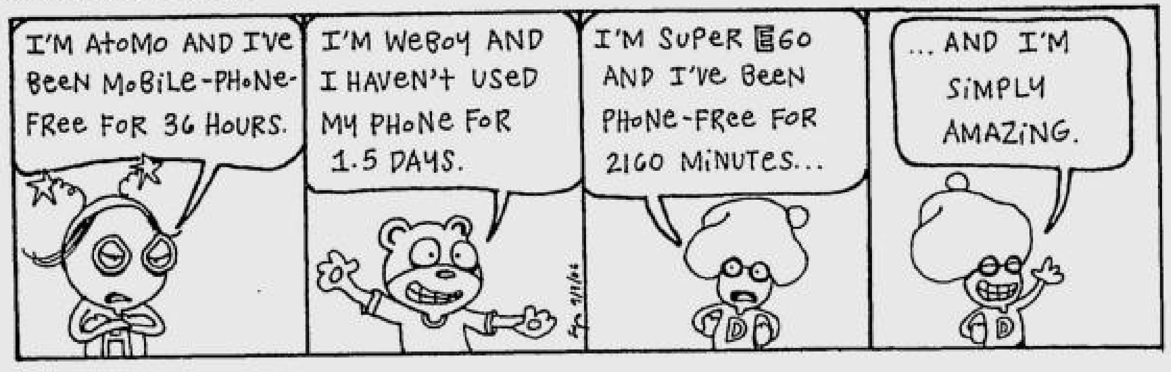
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


TEN TO TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW, MAS LALONG HI-TECH ANG TELESCOPE!!! MAS MALAYO ANG MASISILIP!!!
MARAMI PANG HEAVENLY BODIES ANG MADI-DISCOVER!!!
BAKA SA SOBRANG HI-TECH, MASILIP NA NATIN ANG GATE NG HEAVEN!!

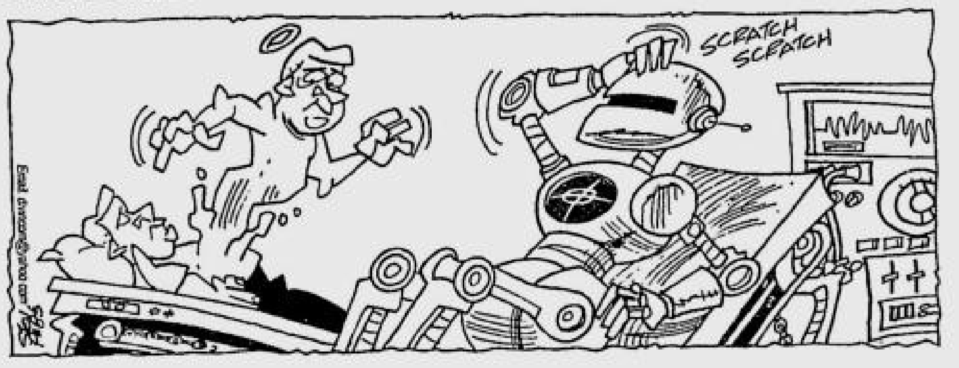
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I'M ATOMO AND I'VE BEEN MOBILE-PHONE-FREE FOR 36 HOURS.
I'M WEBOY AND I HAVEN'T USED MY PHONE FOR 1.5 DAYS.
I'M SUPER EGO AND I'VE BEEN PHONE-FREE FOR 2160 MINUTES...
...AND I'M SIMPLY AMAZING.

DIVINE COMEDY

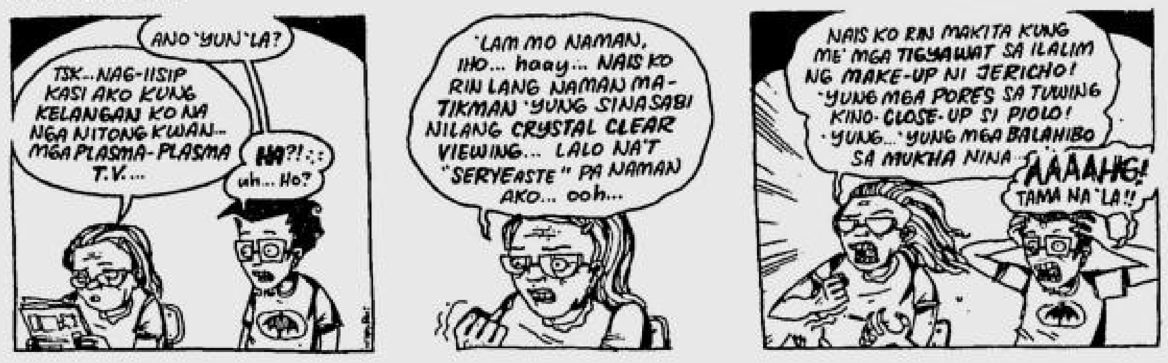
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SCRATCH SCRATCH

GINAYA NI TRON THE ROBOT ANG ISANG PSYCHIC NA MAG-"ASTRAL PROJECTION." PERO BIGLA NYANG NAALALA NA WALA PALA SYANG KALULUWA

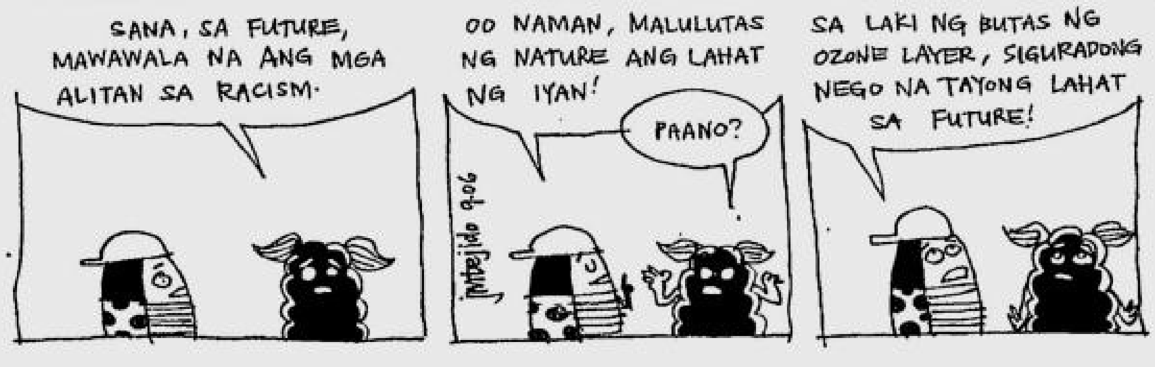
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ANO 'YUN 'LA?
TSK... NAG-IISIP KASI AKO KUNG KELANGAN KO NA NGA NITONG KWAN... MGA PLASMA-PLASMA T.V....
HA?!
uh... Ho?
'LAM MO NAMAN, IHO... haay... NAIS KO RIN LANG NAMAN MATIKMAN 'YUNG SINASABI NILANG CRYSTAL CLEAR VIEWING... LALO NA'T "SERYEASTE" PA NAMAN AKO... ooh...
NAIS KO RIN MAKITA KUNG ME' MGA TIGYAWAT SA ILALIM NG MAKE-UP NI JERICHO! 'YUNG MGA PORES SA TUWING KINO-CLOSE-UP SI PIOLO! 'YUNG... 'YUNG MGA BALAHIBO SA MUKHA NINA...
AAAAHG! TAMA NA 'LA!!

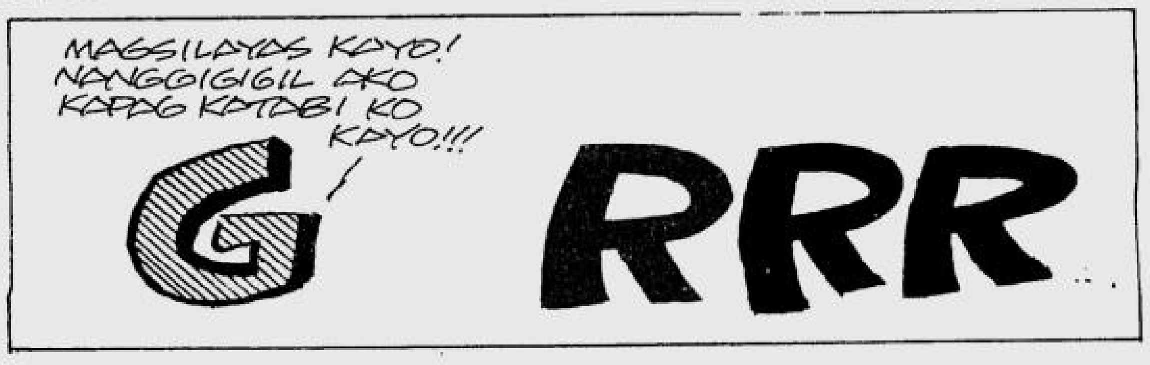
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SANA, SA FUTURE, MAWAWALA NA ANG MGA ALITAN SA RACISM.
OO NAMAN, MALULUTAS NG NATURE ANG LAHAT NG IYAN!
PAANO?
SA LAKI NG BUTAS NG OZONE LAYER, SIGURADONG NEGO NA TAYONG LAHAT SA FUTURE!
9-06

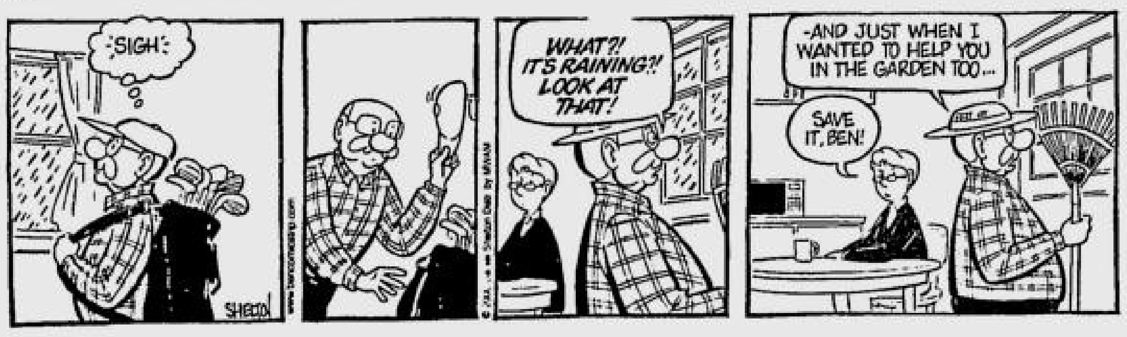
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

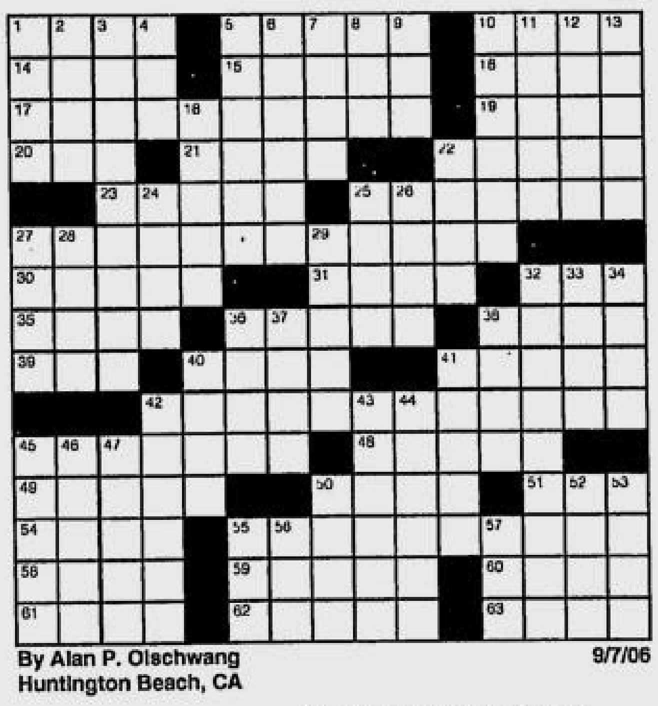

MAGSILAYAS KAYO! NANGGIGIGIL AKO KAPAG KATABI KO KAYO!!!
G RRR

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SIGH
WHAT?! IT'S RAINING?! LOOK AT THAT!
-AND JUST WHEN I WANTED TO HELP YOU IN THE GARDEN TOO...
SAVE IT, BEN!
SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

9/7/06

ACROSS

1 Emcee
5 Dreaded mosquito
10 Ewes' guys
14 Hawkeye's state
15 Carroll critter
16 Send out
17 Start of Evan Esar quip
19 DNA unit
20 9-digit ID org.
21 Long, narrow inlets
22 Simple weapon
23 Ankle bones
25 Arranged
27 Part 2 of quip
30 Rutger of "Blade Runner"
31 Fling
32 Faux __ (social blunder)
35 Buyer-beware phrase
36 Part 3 of quip
38 Unconscious state
39 Addams Family cousin
40 Weaver's frame
41 Greek physician
42 Part 4 of quip
45 Renewable energy source
48 Narrow coastal opening
49 Go with the flow
50 Latin being
51 $ promise
54 Tableland
55 End of quip
58 Security cash
59 Separated
60 Charge per unit
61 "Casablanca" role
62 Cold-cut palaces
63 Hunk of dirt

DOWN

1 Successful punches
2 Cries of delight
3 Workout attire
4 File marker
5 Italian pilgrimage site
6 Necessitate
7 Eurasian crows
8 Time period
9 Wild blue yonder
10 Look at
11 Make changes to
12 Chop into small pieces
13 Guide
18 Miscue
22 Novelist Anita
24 Mimics
25 Frankenstein's helper
26 Meddlesome
27 Bangkok cuisine
28 Tobacco kiln
29 Tiny particles
32 Type of party
33 Prayer ender
34 Caroled
36 Audible weeping
37 Santa's sackful
38 Soap bar
40 Would-be atty.'s hurdle
41 Treble sign
42 Chevy model
43 Hebrew month
44 Maps in maps
45 Felix Salten's fawn
46 Perfect
47 Desert greenery
50 Etc.'s cousin
52 Italian eight
53 Second-hand
55 Small boy
56 Cockney aspiration
57 Circle part

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

J	A	B	B	A	■	C	S	A	■	D	A	M	E	S
A	P	I	A	N	■	A	L	S	■	E	M	O	T	E
M	E	T	R	O	■	R	A	G	■	S	A	V	O	R
■	■	■	B	I	R	D	W	A	T	C	H	I	N	G
A	R	L	E	N	E	■	■	R	A	E	■	E	S	E
F	A	U	L	T	F	I	N	D	I	N	G	■	■	■
L	I	N	■	S	E	T	I	■	■	T	E	S	T	S
A	S	A	P	■	R	O	O	T	S	■	N	E	R	O
C	A	R	P	S	■	■	B	A	T	S	■	M	E	R
■	■	■	S	T	O	N	E	W	A	L	L	I	N	G
F	L	O	■	E	R	E	■	■	S	E	E	S	T	O
E	L	B	O	W	B	E	N	D	I	N	G	■	■	■
T	A	I	G	A	■	S	U	R	■	D	A	C	H	A
E	N	T	E	R	■	O	D	E	■	E	T	H	A	N
D	O	S	E	D	■	N	E	W	■	R	E	E	L	S

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9/7/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're practical, clever and productive; however, you're also restless and eager to explore new experiences. Your challenge is to balance these two impulses. You're compassionate and have a strong desire to serve society or humanity in some way. Emotionally, you're sensitive to the needs of others. Loved ones find you charming. This year favors fun and social activities.

Birthdate of: Devon Sawa, actor; Buddy Holly, musician; Julie Kavner, voice of Marge Simpson.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Your desire to work alone might compete with your desire to cooperate with others at work today. This is the Full Moon at play. (You cannot ignore your coworkers.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You want to do your own thing today. However, friends, groups and organizations want to make their demands on your time. If you can, ignore them. (You're right just to go your own way.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today's Full Moon triggers the classic dilemma between home and family versus career and your external world. You cannot ignore home and family; family is forever.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Today is a mildly accident-prone day. Be patient when talking to others and when driving. Today's Full Moon encourages knee-jerk reactions (not always wise).

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Guard against impulse shopping today. Be aware of your financial dealings; keep track of your money. Do not let responsibilities for others make you forget your responsibility to yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today's Full Moon opposes your sign. This could put a strain on your conversations with close friends and partners. Just be patient. (Remember: You can't hear anyone if you're talking.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your desire to work behind the scenes or stay in the wings is a correct one today. You might sacrifice your own interests for the best interests of others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Today's Full Moon triggers conflict between the demands of friends and your own desire to please yourself. This time you cannot ignore friends and groups. (No man is an island.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Today the demands of bosses, VIPs, parents and authority figures might conflict with your responsibilities to family and home. Sometimes you just can't ignore the Head Honcho. (Oh yeah.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Lofty philosophical discussions and matters connected with the media, publishing and travel are areas where you need to focus today. Talk to siblings and relatives another day.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your responsibilities about the resources of others and shared property in general are your prime concern today. Just for today, put your own money and possessions second.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Today's Full Moon is in your sign. This could produce tension and stress in your closest relationships. Hey, this is just a temporary dark cloud on your horizon. Relax.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

			1			2		
			9			5		
3	5	6	8			1		
						9	5	3
			3		2			
7	8	3						
		5			9	8	7	6
		1			7			
		4			8			

Difficulty Level ★★★

9/07

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

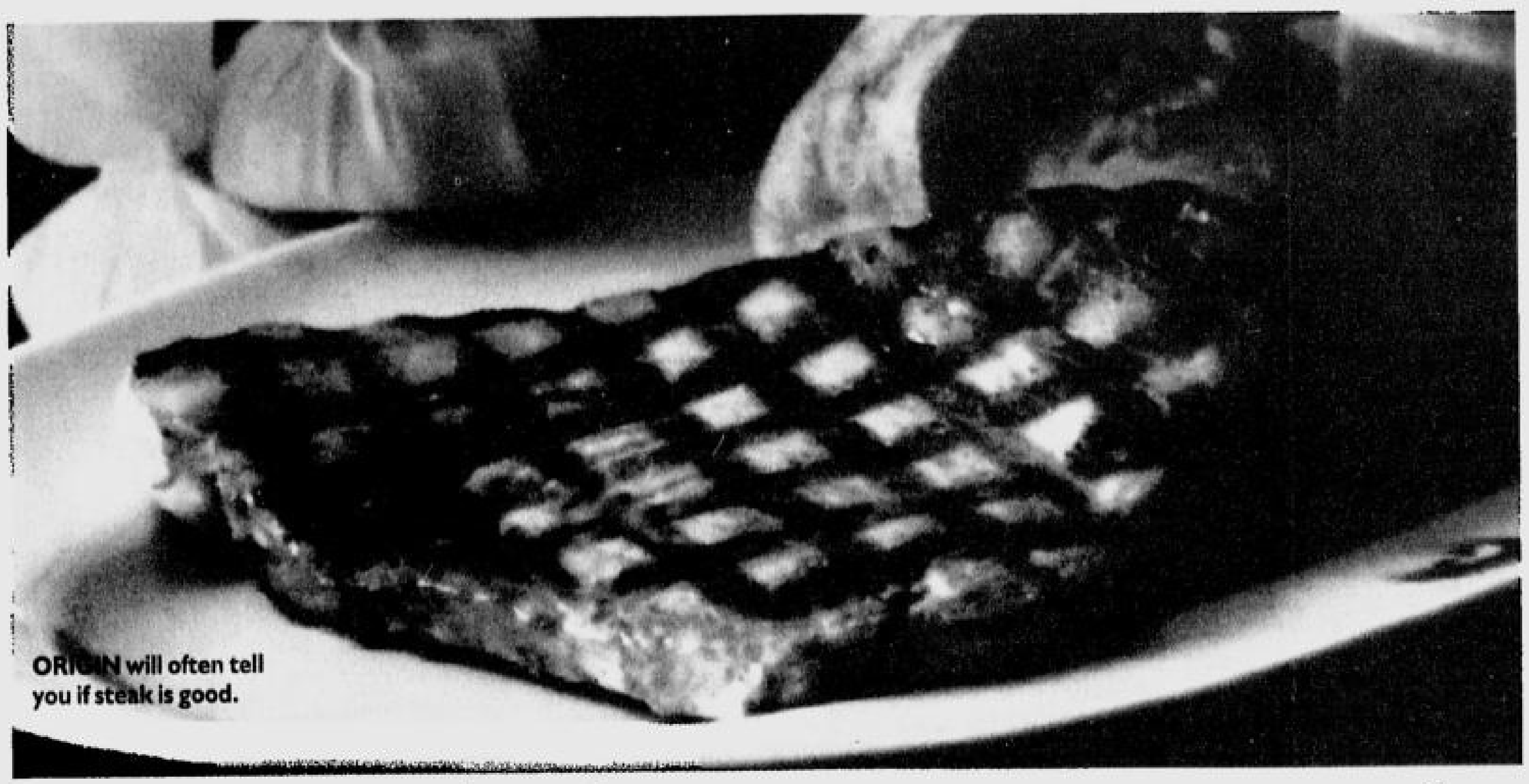
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	5	8	4	7	6	2	1	3
1	4	6	2	5	3	8	9	7
2	7	3	8	9	1	6	5	4
6	2	7	3	4	9	1	8	5
8	3	1	7	2	5	9	4	6
4	9	5	1	6	8	7	3	2
3	6	2	9	1	4	5	7	8
5	8	9	6	3	7	4	2	1
7	1	4	5	8	2	3	6	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

9/06


ORIGIN will often tell you if steak is good.

To each his own steak

By Michaela Fenix

RENAISSANCE MAKATI CITY HOTEL, Manila, turned out to be the former New World Hotel. With the change of name, and possibly management, there were changes in outlet concepts as well.

This is why we had to experience the realignment of Bocarino's, a favorite restaurant that used to have a great appetizer and salad bar.

It's too simplistic to describe the new Bocarino's as a steak place. While there are the usual classification of cuts—rib eye, New York striploin, porterhouse—steaks are also identified according to their provenance or origin.

A look at the menu will tell you that but we did more than look. A survey of the different origins was in order and so the prime beef fillet of 180 grams was chosen just for a taste. One after the other, we were given USA Angus, Australian, New Zealand and USA Kobe.

> Every now and then, it's important to remind your taste buds how an excellent steak tastes

It was surprising to see "USA" attached to Kobe beef. It's supposed to be a product of Japan but we were told that the breed was now raised in the United States, which followed the Japanese technique of feeding and raising the herd. Makes sense because Japan doesn't have the land to meet the growing demand for Kobe beef.

Clear winner

I don't know if we should have done a blind tasting but the USA Kobe won hands-down with us. It was very tender and so juicy that you didn't need anything else.

But I know steak experts who will tell me otherwise, including the kind of feeds given that they say makes the difference in taste and texture.

Of course, to cut the monotony of just beef, there were side orders such as baked potatoes, steamed green asparagus with Hollandaise sauce or the vegetables of the day. If you're feeling you need to add something extra special, then you can order the beef medallion with seared pan-fried goose liver in port wine sauce.

How much would you pay for a good cut of beef that is perfectly cooked? A lot, especially if it is one of the most coveted because of origin. Every now and then, it's important to remind your taste buds how an excellent steak tastes.

Bocarino's is at Renaissance Makati City Hotel, Esperanza Street corner Makati Avenue, tel. 8116888.

Lost and found in translation

From page D1

dered food such as those we were asked to taste.

The main dining area was full of tourists, mostly Korean. The hotel apologized we had to taste the Sutokil dishes in the air-conditioned coffee shop. I certainly wasn't complaining because the humidity was so high, swimming in the pool was probably the best way to eat our dinner.

What completes a meal as simple as grilled prawns are all the other things that go with it. We started off with clams cooked as soup sweetened with bits of corn. Then the salad to go with the grilled items arrived. One was the grape-like seaweed called *arosep* in the Ilocos and *latô* in the Visayas. The other was a mixture of chopped *ampalaya,* tomatoes and salted eggs.

Rice came wrapped in a banana leaf that kept it warm as it went from kitchen to table, exuding a good aroma as you opened it.

I'm glad Mabuhay Manor extended that Filipino character of its hotel to the restaurant. Sutokil is a great introduction to our food for foreigners. It also reminds the Filipino visitor that our food is so good.

'Slow Food'

Members of the Manila Ladies Branch of the International Wine and Food Society (IWFS) have something to crow about. "Slow Food: Philippine Culinary Traditions" (Anvil Publishing, 2005), the book the group produced together with the Manila Slow Food Convivium, has won the National Book Award in the Cookbook and Food Book category. The award was given by the prestigious Manila Critics Circle.

CHEF Carlo Santiago

The news was sent out by Manila Ladies president, Felice Prudente Sta. Maria. Sta. Maria and Erlinda Enriquez Panlilio are the book's editors.

The essays in the book were contributed by several Manila Ladies, members of Slow Food and winners of the annual Doreen Gamboa Fernandez Food Writing Award. The book is dedicated to Fernandez who was a member of both food groups and whose memory is kept alive by this effort to promote Philippine food literature.

Manila Lady Cora Alvina, Philippine National Museum director, designed the book. Multi-awarded artist Manuel Baldemor provided the visuals.

The Manila Ladies Branch, which is celebrating its fifth anniversary this September, has already produced two booklets on food—"Philippine Culinary Sentiments" and "Comforting Cuisine."

Bartending competition raises P55,000 for foundation

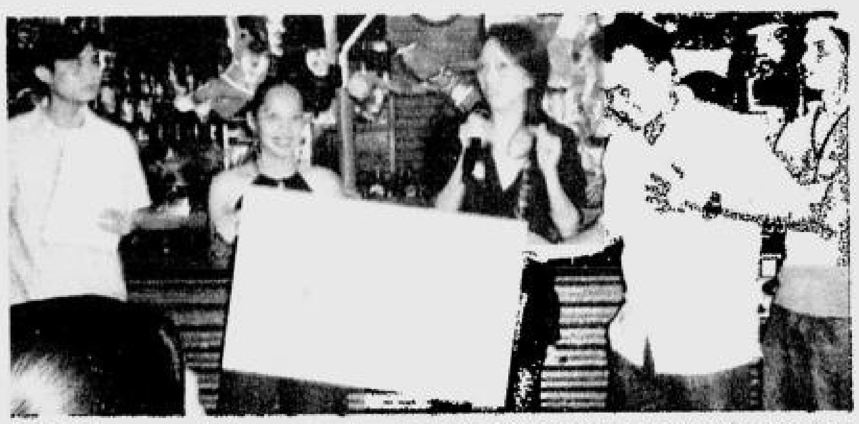
CHILI'S RAISED P55,000 FOR THE I Can Serve foundation during its recent Star Bar Challenge 2006 at Chili's Greenhills.

I Can Serve promotes breast cancer awareness. In previous years, Chili's annual bartending competition has benefited Bantay Bata, Make a Wish Foundation, and Gawad Kalinga.

Brando Tanauan from Chili's Tomas Morato is this year's winner. He received cash and a trip for two to Boracay.

The competition was hosted by DJ's Joey and Miles of Magic 89.9. This year's Star Bar Challenge was sponsored by Nestea Iced Tea, Asian Spirit Airlines, Perrier Sparkling Water, Nestle Ice Cream, and Super Bowl of China.

Chili's has branches in Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center Makati (8672727); Northeast Greenhills, San Juan (7272959); and Tomas Morato, Quezon City (3725017).


CHILI'S representatives present a check to officers of I Can Serve foundation.

Cagayan delicacies showcased until Sept. 17

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL IS SHOWcasing Cagayan dishes during the "Pagayaya Festival," one of the province's prominent events, until Sept. 17 at the second level Carousel Court.

Featured dishes include Igado, Dinakdakan, Dinengdeng, Pinakbet, Pansit Cabagan, Tapang Baka, Ginisa Nga Agurong, Tuguegarao Longganisa, Pancit Batil Patung, Rice Cakes (Inatata, Muriekos and Binallay), Mud Crabs and Lallo and Alcala Carabao Milk Candy.

Other Cagayan Valley delicacies and native products will also be on display like handicrafts, antiques, fashion accessories, gifts, toys, home accents and native furniture.

The event is jointly undertaken by the mall, Cagayan local government, and the Department of Tourism.

Call 8503514. Festival Supermall is at the Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

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The bonus rebate is in addition to the regular 0.5-2.5 percent rebates cardholders already enjoy every month.

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Convenience store chain helps Pinoys become entrepreneurs

THE GOKONGWEI GROUP'S ROBINsons Convenience Stores Inc. offers an opportunity for people to start their own business by opening a Ministop branch.

Opening a Ministop store business is not difficult, as Dr. Ronald Pastrana found out. He opened his first store in 2004. He said his business received solid backing from Robinsons Retail Group, Mitsubishi Corporation and Ministop Japan.

One important aspect for him was Ministop's having a commissary. Business partners did not have to worry about constantly having sufficient supplies.

Training programs, advanced business systems, distribution center and store operation guidance are also provided to partners.

Pastrana said the convenience store chain invested in technology to ensure quick and efficient data exchange in day-to-day operations. It also helped choose locations to make sure the business was viable and convenient for the partner.

Pastrana, who now has four Ministop stores, said some branches averaged a gross income of P45,000 a month. His stores in Manila are in Arlegui, FEU Recto, Sto. Cristo, and VG Cruz.

Pastrana, who works full-time as president of his consultancy firm, has delegated management to members of his family, including a sister; brother, a former overseas Filipino worker; and his nieces.

To find out about how to start a Ministop business, visit the Store Development and Franchising Division of Robinsons Convenience Stores Inc. at Ground Floor CFC Commercial Building, 137 Pasig Blvd., Pasig City. You may also call 6720923/6722279 or e-mail business@ministop.com.ph.

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Sylvia Reynoso-Gala
Gold Medalist, Academia de Gastronomos, Madrid, Spain – 1964
Graduate : Full Course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
Studied in 6 Cooking Schools in Hongkong

Morella Reynoso Gala
Valedictorian, I.H.M.E.S. International Hotel School, United Kingdom – 1992
Studied Cooking at Le Cordon Bleu, London
✓ Also Teaches at # 25 Gladiola St. upper Q.M. Baguio City Tel. # (074) 444-8844

Ernest Reynoso Gala
Graduate : Italian Institute for Advanced Culinary & Pastry Arts
under Chef Director John Nocita, Soverato, Calebria, Italy
Graduate : Le Moulin de Mougins Alain Llorca, Cannes, France
Graduate : Ecole Ritz Escoffier, Paris Ritz Hotel, France
Graduate : Ecole Lenotre Pattiserie, Plaisir Cedex, France
Graduate : Full Course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
Studied at Chopstick and Hongkong Town Gas Culinary Schools

SEP 7 THU 1:30 - 4:30PM - OPEN A COZY KOREAN RESTAURANT. LEARN TO MAKE THESE KOREAN SPECIALTIES: KIMCHI; SPINACH SALAD; MIXED RICE W/ KOREAN BEEF; BEAN SPROUTS; KOREAN PORK BARBECUE; DEEP FRIED BEEF IN SKEWERS; CRAB & PORK FRIED RICE; KOREAN STYLE SOTANGHON; OJINGKO POKUM (SQUID IN HOT SAUCE); ROSE KUI; KOREAN BEEW STEW-TOPPED RICE. PUS, KITCHEN-TESTED BONUS RECIPES. **P1,800. BY SYLVIA**

SEP 8 FRI 1:30 - 5:00PM - 8 NEW JUMBO COOKIES & BAR 1 - REVEL BARS; MACADEMIA NUT BARS; DECADENT BROWNIES; WHITE PLATTER SIZED COOKIES; PEANUT BUTTER JUMBOS; BIGGIE FRISBEE COOKIES; CHOCO OATMEL COOKIES; SUPER FUDGY BROWNIES. **P1,800. BY ERNEST.**

SEP 9 SAT 1:30 - 5:30PM - AUTHENTIC ITALIAN COOKING 1. BY ERNEST. P1,800. MOZZARELLA IN CAROZZA (FRIED CHEESE SANDWICHES), RISOTTO CON SCAMPI (RICE W/ PRAWNS); POLLENTA PASTICICCIATA (CORNMEAL W/ WHITE SAUCE); PETTI DI POLLO ALLA BOLOGNESE (BONED CHICKEN BREASTS W/ PROSCIUTTO & CHEESE); BISTECCA ALLA PIZZAIOLA (BEEF TENDERLOIN STEAKS W/ TOMATOES & GARLIC); CASATA ALLA SICILIANA (SICILIAN LAYERED CAKE W/ RICOTTA CHEESE & CHOCOLATE ICING).

SEP 11 MON 1:30 - 5:15PM - LIGHT & AIRY ENSAYMADAS. CHEESE-ROLLS; SPECIAL EGG PANDESAL, PANDESAL W/ FILLING; CINNAMON ROLLS BREAD-BAKING MADE EASY! **P1,800. BY SYLVIA**

SEP 12 TUE 1:30 - 5:30PM - 6 NEW, INDIVIDUAL SIZED EUROPEAN CAKES & DESSERTS 2. BY ERNEST. P1,800. CHRISTMAS CAKES DRENCHED IN ORANGE SYRUP, BUTTERSCOTCH CAKES W/ CARAMELIZED TOPPING; LITTLE CHOCO CAKES W/ HOT FUDGE; UNBELIEVABLY GOOD BANANA LOAF CAKE, SMALL CARROT CAKES W/ RICOTTA CHEESE TOPPING; ITALIAN PUDDING IN CUSTARD CUPS.

SEP 13 WED 1:30 - 5:00PM - 9 SPECIAL BARBECUE; BEEF TERIYAKI IN SKEWERS; PORK SPARERIBS W/ HOISIN SAUCE. MAGNOLIA CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS IN HONEY SAUCE; (SATE A JAM) CHICKEN SKEWERS IN PEANUT SAUCE; BEEF RIBS W/ PEKING NOODLES; DELICIOUS SPARERIBS; NEW KOREAN BEEF BARBECUE; NASIGORENG (INDONESIAN FRIED RICE); FERNANDO MIGUEL ERENETA'S CHICKEN HONEY; THE BEST PORK BARBECUE W/ SPECIAL PEANUT SAUCE. **P1,800. BY ERNEST**

SEP 14 THU 1:30 - 5:00PM - OPEN A PIZZA PARLOR - LEARN TO MAKE THESE ITALIAN FAVORITES MOZARELLA-TOPPED BIG & THICK CRUST PIZZA (BAKED IN A RECTANGULAR PAN), THIN CRUST PIZZA W/ DIFFERENT TOPPINGS; FETUCINE ALFREDO, SPAGHETTI CARBONARA; BREADED VEAL STEAKS W/ LEMON; PEACH-FILLED CREPES W/ FRUIT SAUCE **PLUS** 12 BONUS RECIPES OF PASTAS & SANDWICHES **P1,800. BY ERNEST**

SEP 15 FRI 1:30 - 5:15PM - 9 NEW SPECIAL COOKIES & BARS 2. BY ERNEST. P1,800. MISSISSIPPI MUD BARS. ROCKY ROAD BROWNIES; CHUNKY OATMEAL BARS; HEAVENLY DATE BARS; PEANUT BUTTER BROWNIES; MARSHMALLOW COOKIES; RICOA CHOCO IN FLAKY CUPS; PANDAN CRESCENTS; RHUM BALLS.

SEP 16 SAT 1:30 - 5:00PM - ALL NEW ASIAN COOKING 1. DEEP FRIED ADOBO SIOPAO W/ "KALISKIS"; STEAMED SHRIMP BALLS; STEAMED CRABSTICKS W/ GLASS NOODLES; BEEF RENDANG; MANGO TARIK SHAKE; COFFEE TARIK SHAKE; DELICIOUS ICE CHEE (TEA W/ LYCHEES). **P1,800. BY ERNEST & SYLVIA**

SEP 18 MON 1:30 - 5:30PM - FRENCH CAKES, PASTRY & DESSERTS 1. BY ERNEST. P1,800. PARIS-BREST; CHOCOLATE GENOISE W/ GANACHE (RICH CHOCOLATE SPONGE CAKE W/ FILLING); REINE DE SABA (QUEEN OF SHEBA CAKE); CRE'ME BRULEE; CHOCOLAT POTS DE CRE'ME (SMOOTH CHOCOLATE MOUSSE).

SEP 19 TUE 1:30 - 5:00PM - PUT UP A STEAKHOUSE. LEARN THE TECHNIQUES TO COOKING THE JUICIEST PORTERHOUSE STEAKS; BEEF TENDERLOIN STEAKS ALA POBRE; DELICIOUS HOMEMADE GRAVY; CAESAR SALAD, ROAST ORANGE PORK LOIN; BESTSELLING BAKED SPAGHETTI W/ 2 SAUCES. MAKE YOUR OWN CREPES SAMURAI. **P1,800. BY ERNEST**

SEP 20 WED 1:30 - 4:45PM - CASA ARMAS' STYLE SOFT TO THE BONES SPANISH ROASTED CHICKEN W/ BABY POTATOES. THE YUMMIEST BACON-WRAPPEDMEAT LOAF W/ GRAVY; STEAMED THEN DEBONED, WHOLE LAPU-LAPU FISH SALAD; OUR BEST HAM-MACARONI PARTY SALAD; GOOD OLE' AMERICAN APPLE PIE. **P1,800. BY SYLVIA**

SEP 21 THU 1:30 - 4:00PM - EASY HONGKONG RESTAURANT COURSE. SIZZLING CHINESE STYLE STEAKS W/ MONTEREY BEEF TENDERLOIN; SHRIMP & CRAB CLAWS AND BALLS IN NEST W/ SWEET & SOUR SAUCE; HONGKONG STYLE ASSORTED VEGETABLE PLATTER; MAGNOLIA STIR FRIED CHICKEN BREAST W/ CASUY; LAPU-LAPU IN CREAM OF CORN SAUCE; LOURDES FAT CRABS COOKED IN GINGER-GARLIC SPRITE. **P1,800. BY ERNEST**

SEP 22 FRI 1:30 - 5:00PM - 8 NEW SPECIAL COFFEESHOP COOKIES 3. BY ERNEST. P1,800. WAFER-THIN COOKIES; CINNAMON CRINKLES, PISTACHIO CHIP COOKIES; WHOLE GRAIN SUNFLOWER COOKIES; FLORENTINES, PRETZEL-SHAPED COOKIES; CHOCO-CHOCO MACAROON; SNICKERS.

SEP 23 SAT 1:30 - 5:00PM - POPULAR JAPANESE DISHES 2 - LEARN 8 DELICIOUS RECIPES! SHABU-SHABU W/ 2 SAUCES; ASSORTED CRISPY TEMPURA; GRILLED PORK & BEEF SLICE; UDON (VERY SPECIAL NOODLES); FRIED TOFU IN SPECIAL SAUCE; BREADED CHICKEN WINGS W/ VINEGAR SAUCE; JAPANESE MIXED FRIED RICE. PLUS BONUS RECIPES OF COMPLETE SUSHI BAR. **P1,800. BY SYLVIA**

SEP 25 MON 1:30 - 5:00PM - CHINESE ROAST PORK ASADO; CHICKEN W/ CHESTNUTS. ROAST PORK SPARERIBS, TARO PUFF SHRIMPS; QUAIL EGGS W/ SHRIMPS AND MUSHROOMS, FISH IN SWEET SAUCE; SMOKED SOY CHICKEN; GLUTINOUS RICE BALLS DIPPED IN COCONUT FLAKES **PLUS** MANY BONUS RECIPES. **P1,800. BY SYLVIA**

SEP 26 TUE 1:30 - 5:00PM - NOT TOO SPICY, AUTHENTIC THAI COOKING 2 - THAI CHICKEN BARBECUE, BARBECUED 5 SPICE PORK SPARERIBS; THAI CHICKEN SATAY; THAI FRIED FISH CAKES; GARLIC SQUIDS; CURRIED FISH WRAPPED IN BANANA LEAVES. **P1,800. BY ERNEST**

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New TV show offers tips for party hosts

LEARN THE ART OF HOME entertaining beginning Sept. 10.

The Lifestyle Channel presents at 10 a.m. every Sunday Michelle Simone's "Entertaining at Home," a 30-minute show on organizing a themed party.

Presented by Michelle Simone Productions (MSP), the show is divided into three segments: cooking, craft and décor.

Cooking features easy-to-prepare dishes that will fit the theme of the party. It provides and demonstrates original recipes or gives them a new twist. It also suggests ways to present the dishes.

The craft segment features a step-by-step process for making invitations, games, giveaways, decor and accessories.

The décor segment shows how to create the suitable ambience and offers do-it-yourself decorating ideas.

MICHELLE Simone brings to the show years of experience in events planning, interior design and restaurant work.

Gift Delivery via AIR 21

hassle-free gift delivery service at SM Department Store

September 10 is Grandparents' Day and SM Department Store is bursting to the seams with grand gift ideas for Lolo and Lola.

Specially showcased for the golden occasion are fashion accessories for Lola and leather wallets and premium cigars for Lolo.

To make it easier for shoppers to send their gifts, SM Department Store invites customers to avail of its Gift Delivery Service via Air 21.

For details, shoppers may inquire at the Customer Service Counter of the Metro Manila branch where they purchased their gifts.

shop all the best for them today through sept 10
because we love you
lolo & lola
happy grandparents day

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DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO • DASMARIÑAS • BATANGAS • DELGADO • SAN LAZARO • SUCAT • STA. ROSA • CLARK • MALL OF ASIA

CHEF and author Rocco DiSpirito

Celebrity chef and author holds cooking demo

AWARD-WINNING CHEF AND BEST-selling cookbook author Rocco DiSpirito is conducting cooking demonstrations and restaurant promotions at the Ayala Malls.

He will be at Greenbelt 7-8:30 p.m., Sept. 8; Alabang Town Center, 4-5:30 p.m., Sept. 9; and Ayala Center Cebu, 3-4:30 p.m., Sept. 10.

DiSpirito will give cooking tips and discuss kitchen techniques. His interactive cooking demo will feature some of his award-winning dishes.

In "A Taste of Rocco Ayala Malls restaurant promo," customers get raffle coupons until Sept. 30 when they dine in any Greenbelt, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Center Cebu restaurant. With the coupons, they get a chance to win gift certificates from Greenbelt, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Center Cebu restaurants, as well as kitchen appliances.

Known for his Italian-American recipes and innovative fusion cooking, DiSpirito, once called the "Sexiest Chef Alive" by People magazine, starred in the popular reality television show, "The Restaurant," after he launched a New York City restaurant.

The 39-year-old chef is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America and Boston University. He was named Food & Wine's "Best New Chef" in 1999 and Gourmet magazine's "America's Most Exciting Young Chef" in 2000.

Among his best-selling cookbooks are "Rocco's Five-Minute Flavor," "Rocco's Italian-American" and "Flavor" (winner of the 2004 James Beard Award for Best Cookbook).

Sponsors of the events, aside from Ayala Malls, are Rustan's, Lifestyle Network and Elba.

NEW COFFEE SHOP BRANCH The largest Figaro coffee shop in Asia opens at SM Mall of Asia. With a 25-meter frontage, Figaro's 53rd outlet has a European ambience. Figaro serves coffee in real china. Customers can also have authentic Italian espresso in a demitasse. Open from breakfast until late in the evening, Figaro offers a wide choice of coffee, breakfast fare and a selection of pastries, pastas and sandwiches.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

EDDIE Garcia says he has done gay roles since "time immemorial."

Been there, done that

Text and photos by Nini Valera

ON THE SET OF VIVA FILMS' "REYNA," Eddie Garcia was doing a mean dance routine with Keanna Reeves on the rooftop of the Peta Theater Building in Quezon City one Sunday afternoon. He was in drag.

"I've done gay roles since time immemorial," says the 85-year-old Garcia. "Even before 'Tubog sa Ginto' (the critically acclaimed film directed by Lino Brocka, where he played his landmark role as a closet gay), I've done slapstick gay roles, caricatures of gays. In the 1980s, I did 'Paru-parong Buking,' and 'Star,' with Rudy Fernandez, where I was a gay director. So this gay role in 'Reyna' is not new to me."

A bonus

Been there, done that.

Acting and directing awards are not new to him, either. His latest is this year's Gawad Urian for Lifetime Achievement.

"I received lifetime achievement distinctions from other award-giving bodies," he says. "But I still feel elated if I get an award. It's like a bonus for a job well done."

No small roles

No role is also too big or too small for the actor, who started his movie career in 1949. In "Reyna," he plays an aging makeup artist who takes pity on Keanna and teaches her to dance in preparation for a gay beauty contest.

The only time he refused a role was when a producer asked him to portray a character in his 20s who ages into his 60s as the story unfolds.

"Imagine me playing a 20-year-old? I told the producer we would be laughed at," says Garcia, who wears his age proudly. "But I think I can still play a 50-year-old . I'm not choosy when it comes to roles."

Known for keeping his private life to himself, Garcia admits he's living with a 52-year-old girlfriend.

"No, we're not married," he says. "I don't see any reason too get married. That's just a piece of paper. I've always been a one-woman man."

Garcia, a widower, has lost two children—one died in an accident, the other of a heart disease.

"My eldest son, my junior, died in a motorcycle accident in 1973," recounts Garcia. "My daughter Elizabeth died of a heart attack when she was only 39. I was devastated. But life must go on. Now, I have only Erwin, my other son. He's 52."

Big heart

He is a man with a big heart who wants to enjoy life. When he won P5 million in a slot machine game in 1999, he kept only half of his winnings for himself.

"I splurged," he says, chuckling.

BEEN/ E2

Oh, no, not me—Susan

DID YOU KNOW...

BACOLOD—SUSAN Roces has no plans to run for public office.

The actress, Jesusa Sonora-Poe in real life, was in Bacolod City last weekend for La Consolacion College's Class '56 golden anniversary celebration. Poe received the 2006 Most Distinguished Alumni Award in the field of arts during rites held at the LCC campus.

During an interview, Roces told INQUIRER Entertainment she'd rather go back to acting than run for office.

In fact, she said, "I have resumed my acting career via the sitcom 'John En Shirley' on ABS-CBN."

She had come home to touch base with her classmates, she said. High school life was, she added, "filled with fun and good memories."

Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

'Really prepared' for Miss World

By Armin Adina

THE MISS WORLD PAGEANT, TRADITIONALLY held near the year's end, will be staged Sept. 30 this year in Warsaw, Poland. But Bb. Pilipinas–World Anna Maris Igpit wouldn't mind moving up the date.

"I'm really prepared," said the 19-year-old Boholana during her sendoff party last week at the Araneta Coliseum Gazebo in Cubao, Quezon City. To prove she was, she said, in straight Polish: "We in the Philippines love Pope John Paul II forever." Which was of course met with riotous applause.

As an added treat, Anna performed a traditional dance choreographed by Douglas Nierras of Powerdance. TV director Fritz Ynfante, who collaborated with Nierras on the number, explained that Anna was set to present the "stylized" T'boli dance during the Miss World Talent Night Special.

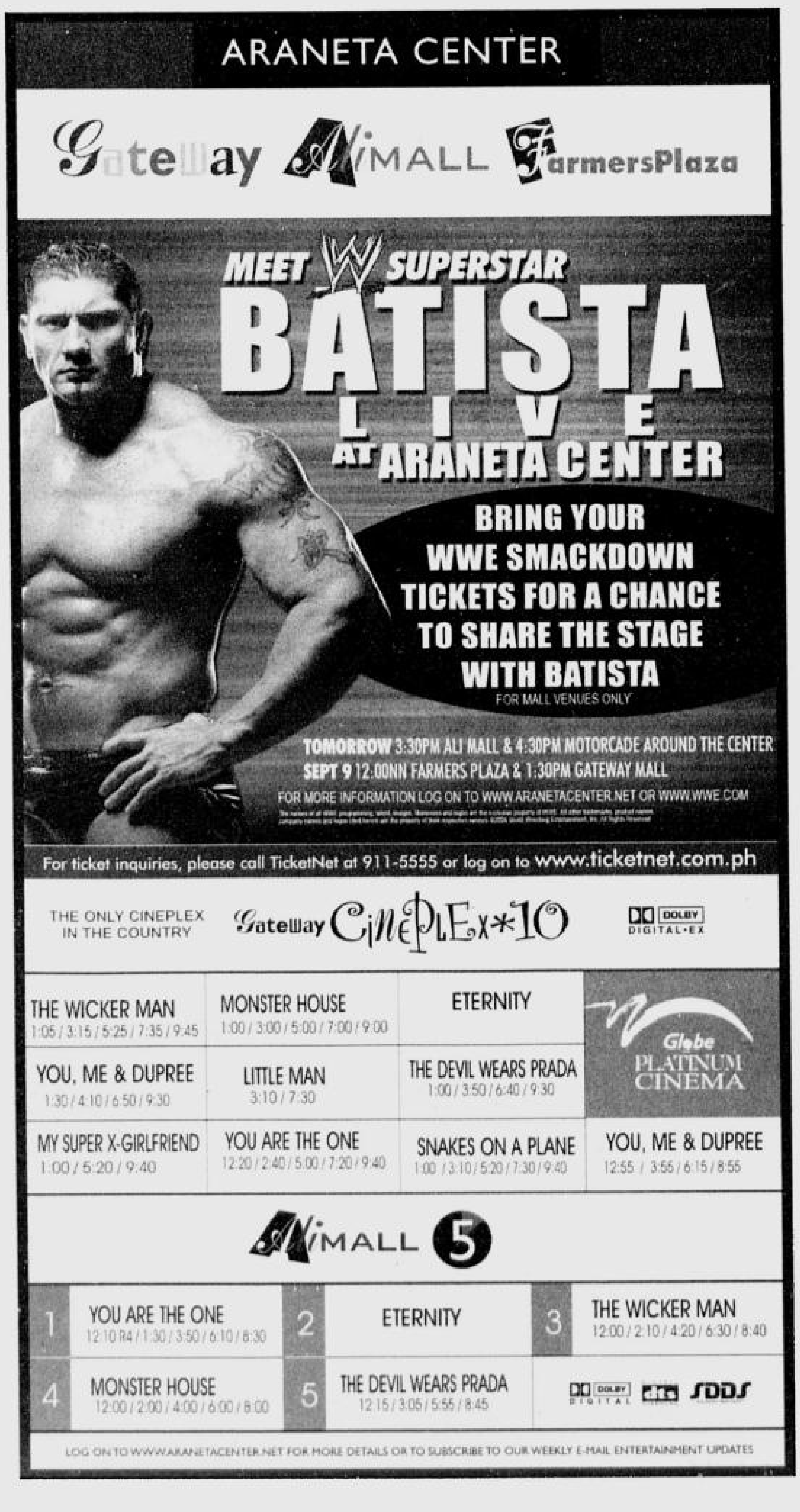
"There's a special emphasis on talent this year," Ynfante said. "Talent Night is being aired as special show prior to coronation night."

Aside from Polish and dance lessons, Anna went through Dale Carnegie person-

REALLY/ E2

ANNA Maris Igpit

RAFFY LERMA



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YOU, ME & DUPREE 12:55 / 3:55 / 6:15 / 8:55

AliMALL 5

1 YOU ARE THE ONE 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30

2 ETERNITY

3 THE WICKER MAN 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40

4 MONSTER HOUSE 12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00 / 6:00 / 8:00

5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 12:15 / 3:05 / 5:55 / 8:45

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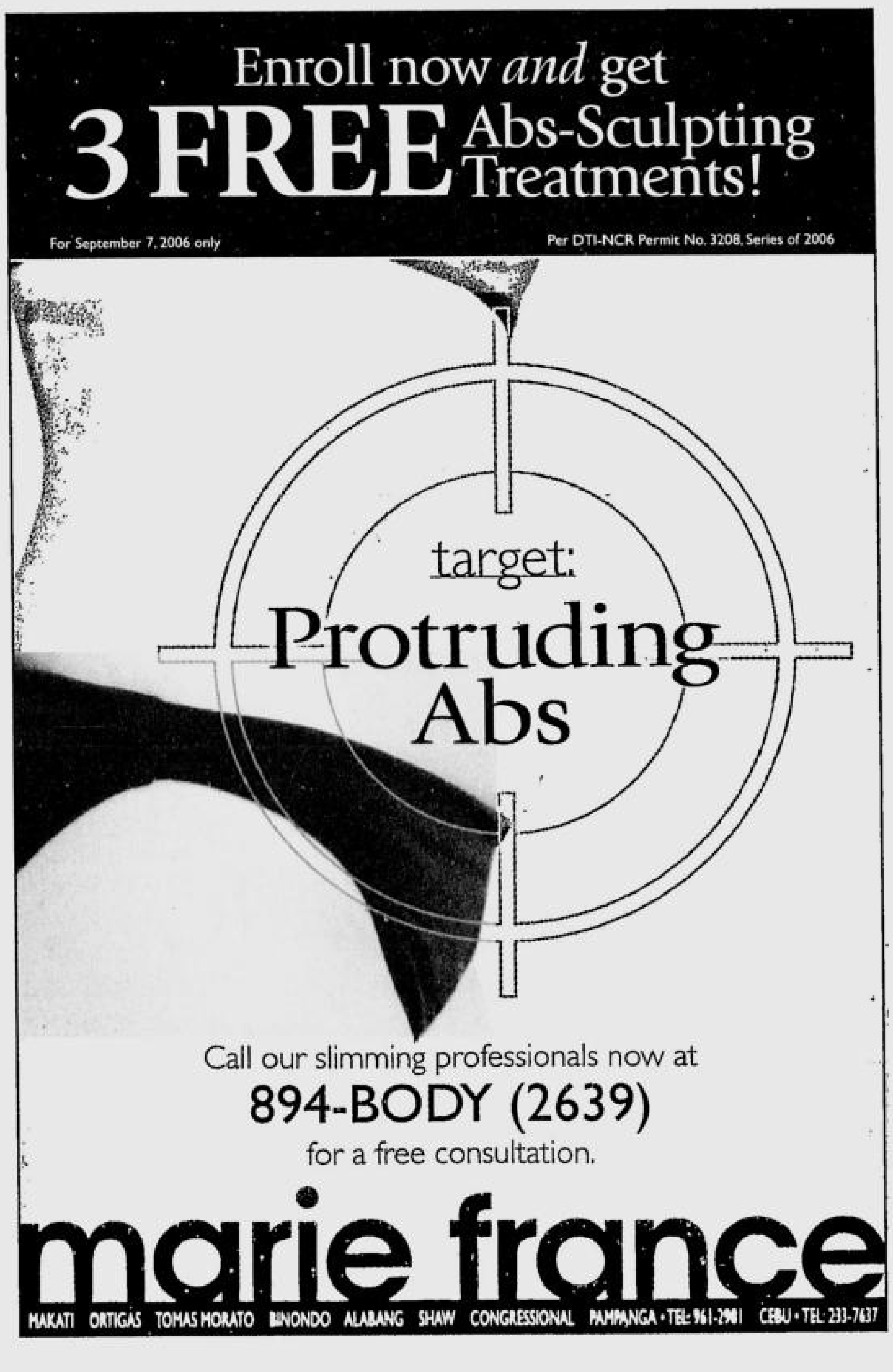

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Been there, done that

From page E1

"I gave *balato*. Life's too short to waste. You can't take your money with you when you go."

He is also known for his generosity to indie filmmakers, accepting roles for a small fraction of his fee or none at all. Even in mainstream movies, Garcia has also taken a pay cut.

"Definitely, I've taken a pay cut," he says. "There are very few films that are being produced now."

If there's no work in the movies, Garcia acts in television. Both media, he says, are satisfying.

"I'm easy," he says.

'Really prepared' ...

From page E1

ality development sessions and trained in catwalk, makeup and styling with previous titleholders. Unlike recent beauty queens sent to Colombia for prepping, Anna had an all-Filipino makeover.

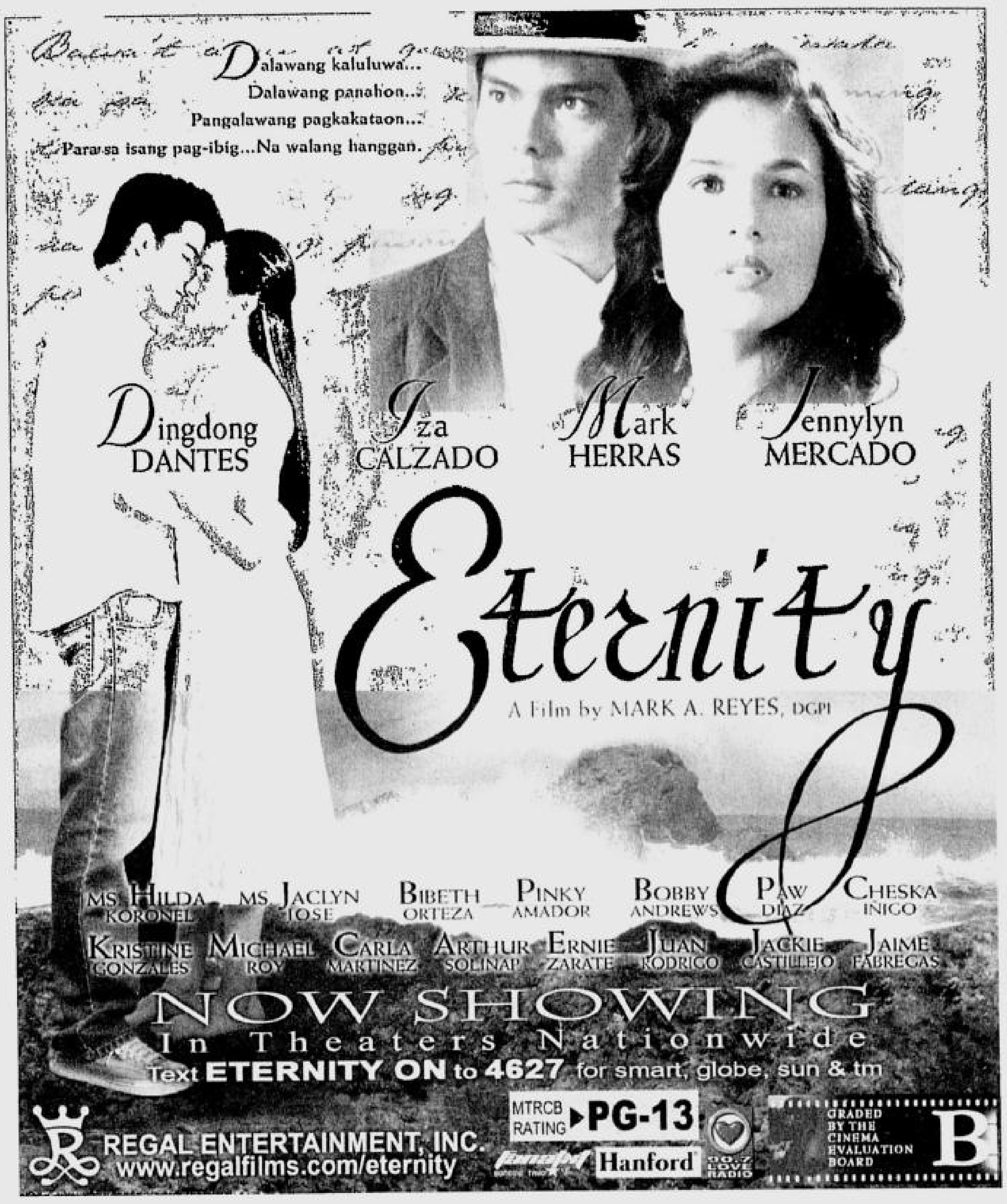
The girl is not new to pageants at all. Since she was 16, she has been joining beauty contests on the prodding of family and friends. "It was my family's dream for me to become a beauty queen," Anna said. "I just want to finish my studies and work in local tourism. Anna is a sophomore Tourism student at the Southwestern University in Cebu.

She recalled that when the Miss Universe pageant was held in Manila in 1994, she wondered "how the Miss Philippines sash would look on me." She was six years old.

Now that she was wearing such a sash, Anna vowed to "bring home the country's first Miss World crown."

Of the major international titles, Miss World has proven to be the most elusive for the Philippines. Evangeline Pascual came closest to winning it when she placed second to Miss USA Marjorie Wallace in 1973. Actress Ruffa Gutierrez came in third 20 years later.

Anna left for Poland on Sept. 1, trusting that through the global vote via e-mail and SMS—and the Philippines proving that it's the texting capital of the world—she would get that much needed extra lift to launch her quest.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2	MONSTER HOUSE	1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 11:00	G
3	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00	PG-13
4	THE WICKER MAN	1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00	R-13

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	2 THE WICKER MAN	3 ETERNITY	4 YOU ARE THE ONE
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	2 YOU ARE THE ONE	3 THX THE WICKER MAN 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 THE LOST CITY	5 MONSTER HOUSE	6 YOU, ME & DUPREE	7 ETERNITY
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	2 YOU, ME & DUPREE		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX YOU, ME & DUPREE 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 MONSTER HOUSE 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 YOU ARE THE ONE 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE WICKER MAN 2:20, 4:39, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX YOU, ME & DUPREE	2 MONSTER HOUSE		
	3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	4 YOU ARE THE ONE	5 THE WICKER MAN	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 MONSTER HOUSE	2 YOU ARE THE ONE	3 STAY ALIVE	4 ETERNITY
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 ETERNITY	2 MONSTER HOUSE		
	3 YOU, ME & DUPREE	4 YOU ARE THE ONE	5 THE WICKER MAN	

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FILIPINO-GREEK WWE® SUPERSTAR

BATISTA

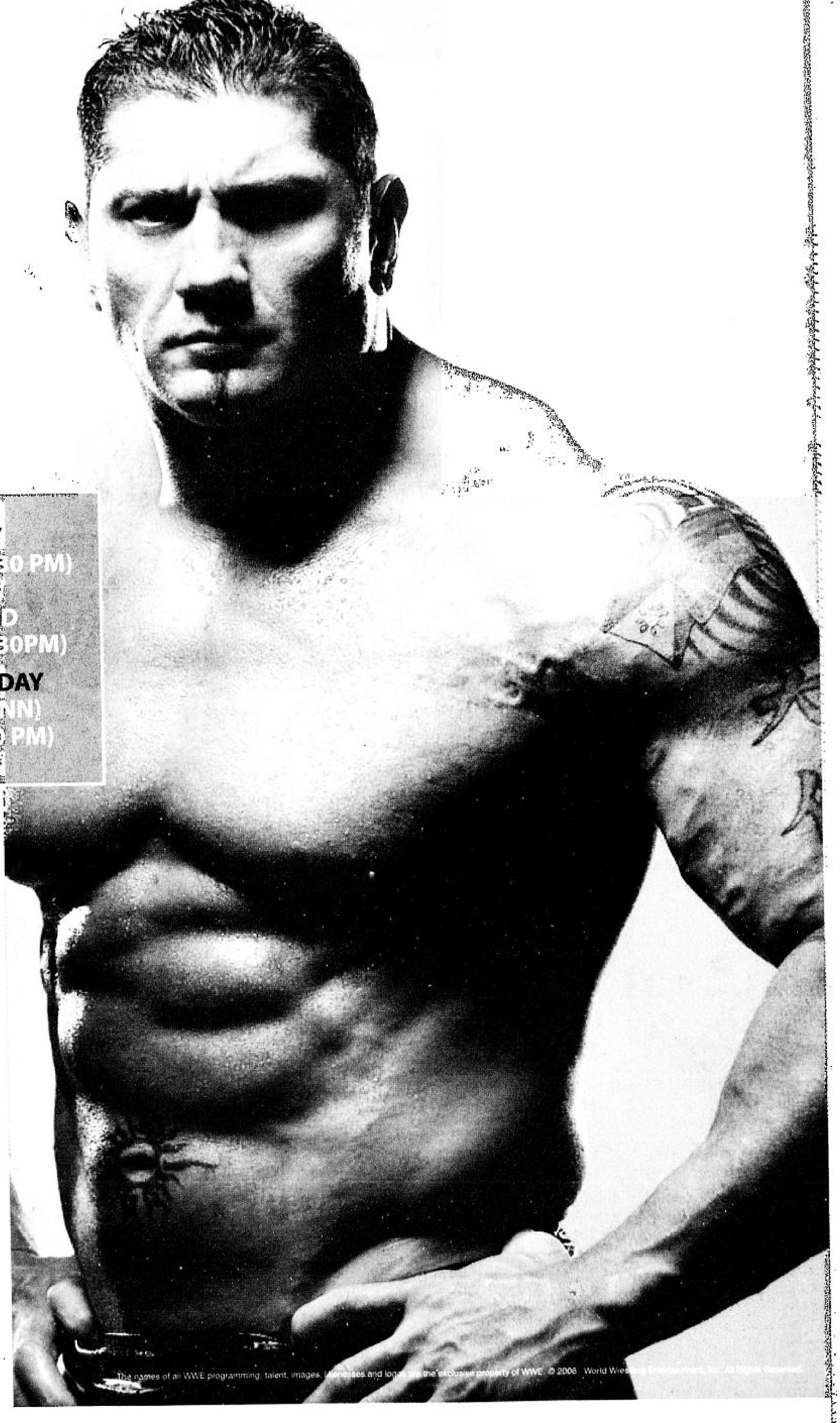
COMING TO ARANETA CENTER

He is considered World Wrestling Entertainment's biggest star. He is the ultimate winner in last year's Royal Rumble. He is the only wrestler to defend the World Heavyweight Championship at both Raw and SmackDown in the same year. He is Dave Michael Bautista, more popularly known as "Batista," who proudly shows off his Pinoy heritage through one of his numerous tattoos—a Philippine flag merged with the Greek banner.

The legendary wrestler will arrive in Manila on September 8 and 9 for a whirlwind promotional tour to hype the forthcoming WWE® SmackDown Survivor Series Tour. Batista will be making the rounds of TV and radio stations. Also lined up are meet and greet sessions for lucky Araneta Center and SM Mall of Asia patrons.

SEPTEMBER 8 / FRIDAY
- SM MALL OF ASIA (1:30 PM)
- ALI MALL (3:30 PM)
- MOTORCADE AROUND ARANETA CENTER (4:30PM)

SEPTEMBER 9 / SATURDAY
- FARMERS PLAZA (12 NN)
- GATEWAY MALL (1:30 PM)



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Lucky WWE® SmackDown Survivor Series Tour ticketholders will even get the chance to share the stage with Batista by bringing along their tickets to the venue and texting the following: WWE_TEXTBACK_<TOUR VENUE> (e.g. WWE TEXTBACK GATEWAY). Globe and Touch Mobile subscribers can send their messages to 2858 while Smart, Talk & Text, and Sun Cellular subscribers can send theirs to 2729. You can also buy tickets at the mall tour venues.

Watch out for the much-anticipated homecoming of our very own WWE superstar when Araneta Center brings Batista, along with King Booker, Undertaker, Lashley, Chris Benoit, Mr. Kennedy, Finlay, Paul London, Brian Kendrick and many more LIVE for the WWE SmackDown Survivor Series Tour on October 21 and 22 at the Big Dome.

Tickets are available at TicketNet booths located around the Araneta Coliseum and at any SM TicketNet outlets near you. Ticket prices are P10500, P5250, P3675, P3465, P2100 and P945. For ticket inquiries, call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph or www.wwe.com

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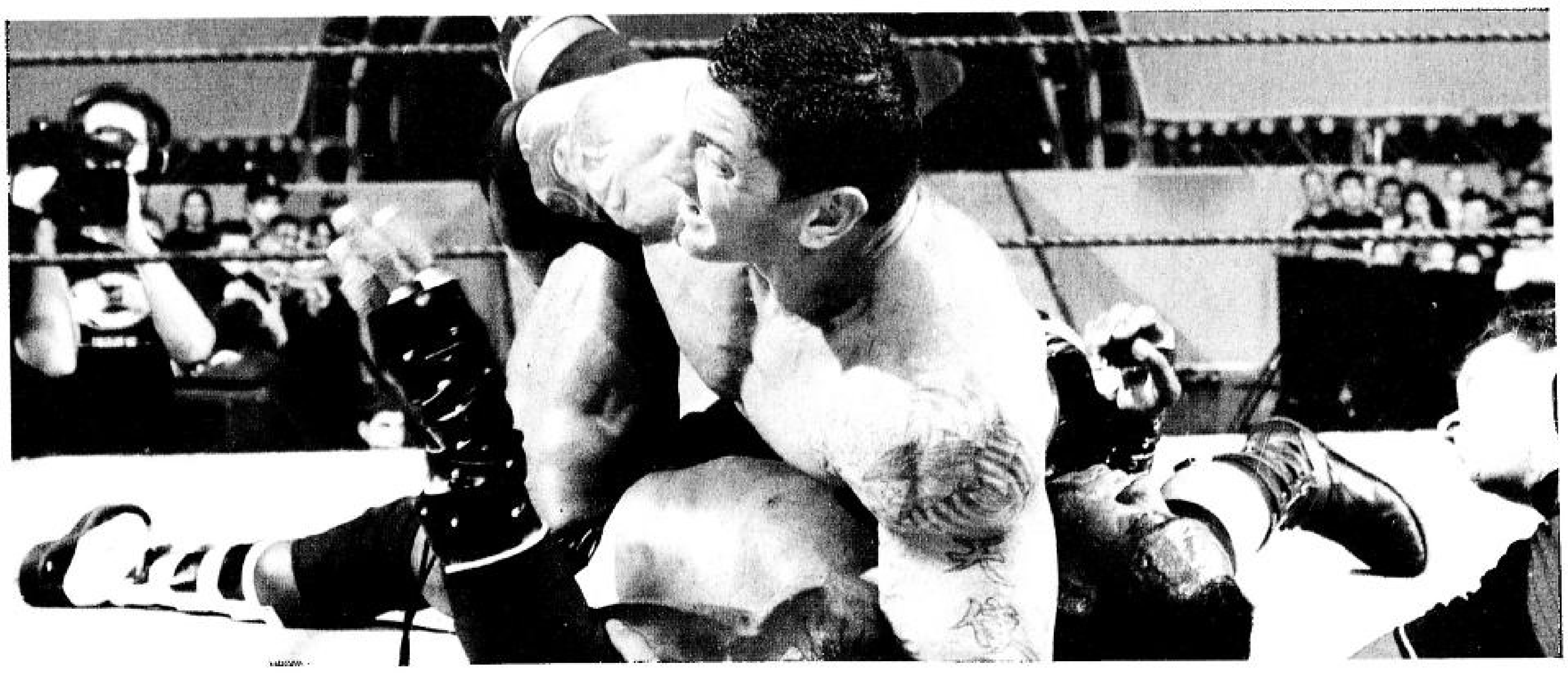

Local wrestling fans are sure to go crazy for this exciting new promo from Araneta Center. From September 8 to October 14, 2006, every P1000 single or accumulated purchase from any Araneta Center establishment gives customers a chance to win a once-in-a-lifetime treat of having dinner with an actual WWE® Superstar plus premium tickets for 4 to the WWE® SmackDown Survivor Series Tour on October 21 and 22 at the Big Dome. The winners will also receive exclusive WWE merchandise signed by the WWE® Superstars themselves.

Customers can present their receipts at the redemption booths located at the Upper Ground Floor of Ali Mall and Farmers Plaza; at the Upper Ground Floor Concierge and at the LRT Concourse on Level 2 of Gateway Mall. In exchange for their receipts, they will be given raffle coupons which contain sealed codes which will be sent through Solar Interactive access nos. 2858 (Globe) or 2729 (Smart & Sun Cellular) by texting ARANETA _<code> (e.g. ARANETA abc123). Each successfully sent code is equal to 1 raffle entry. To double the entries earned, the participant can download any MMS image from the ARANETA PIC service within the same day the coupon was redeemed by texting ARANETA PIC ON to 2858 (Globe) or 2729 (Smart & Sun).

So Pinoy WWE® fans should start shopping now at Gateway Mall, Ali Mall, Farmers Plaza and all the other Araneta Center establishments if they want the chance to have dinner with a WWE® Superstar and watch the WWE SmackDown Survivor Series Tour on October 21 and 22 at the Big Dome for free.

THE BEAST BIO

Name: Batista
Nicknames: The Animal, Big Dave & The Beast
Height: 6 foot 5
Weight: 290 pounds
From: Washington, D.C.
Signature Move: Batista Bomb
Career Highlights: World Heavyweight Champion; WWE® Tag Team Champion; World Tag Team Champion; 2005 Royal Rumble winner

WRESTLING FACTS

- Batista's entrance music was remixed and had lyrics added to it in March 2005, with the new theme debuting after WrestleMania 21. The song, called "I Walk Alone," was performed by the band Saliva.

- Since WrestleMania 21, Batista has used the infamous "thumbs up, thumbs down" gesture before he performs the Batista Bomb on his opponents.

- In 2005, Pro Wrestling Illustrated magazine awarded him as the Wrestler of the Year, the Most Improved Wrestler of the Year and the Most Powerful Wrestler of the Year

PERSONAL INFO

- Batista has numerous tattoos, including a large Chinese dragon on his back, a signature design on his upper right biceps, and a small sun on his stomach which encircles his belly button. He recently added a tattoo on his arm of the flags of the Philippines and Greece merged into one.

- Batista can breakdance. This was shown in a commercial promoting WWE® SummerSlam 2004 where he did his take on a "floor routine."

- Outside of the ring, Batista is still good friends with Triple H, even publicly acknowledging him by his real name Paul, when he forfeited the title.

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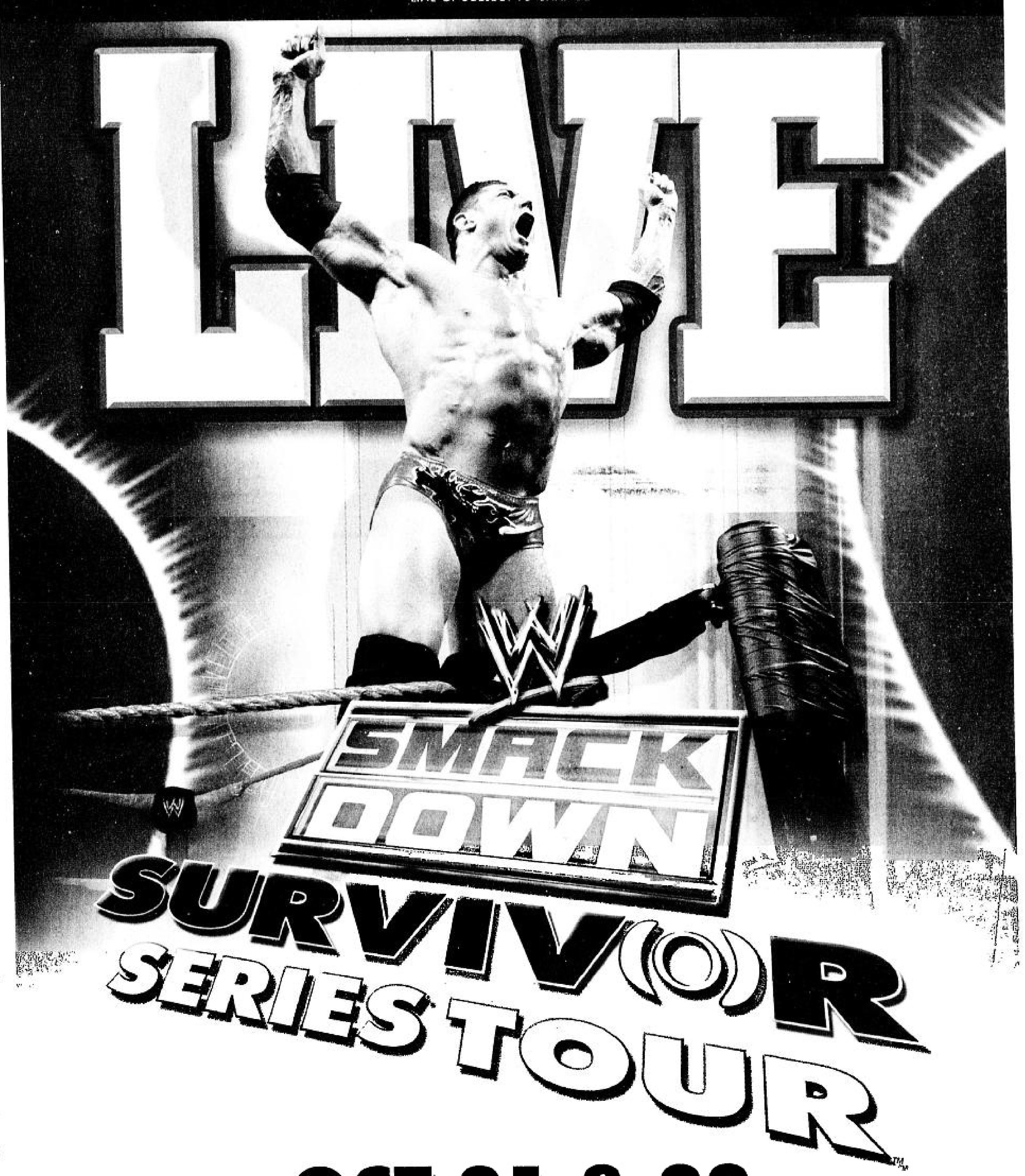

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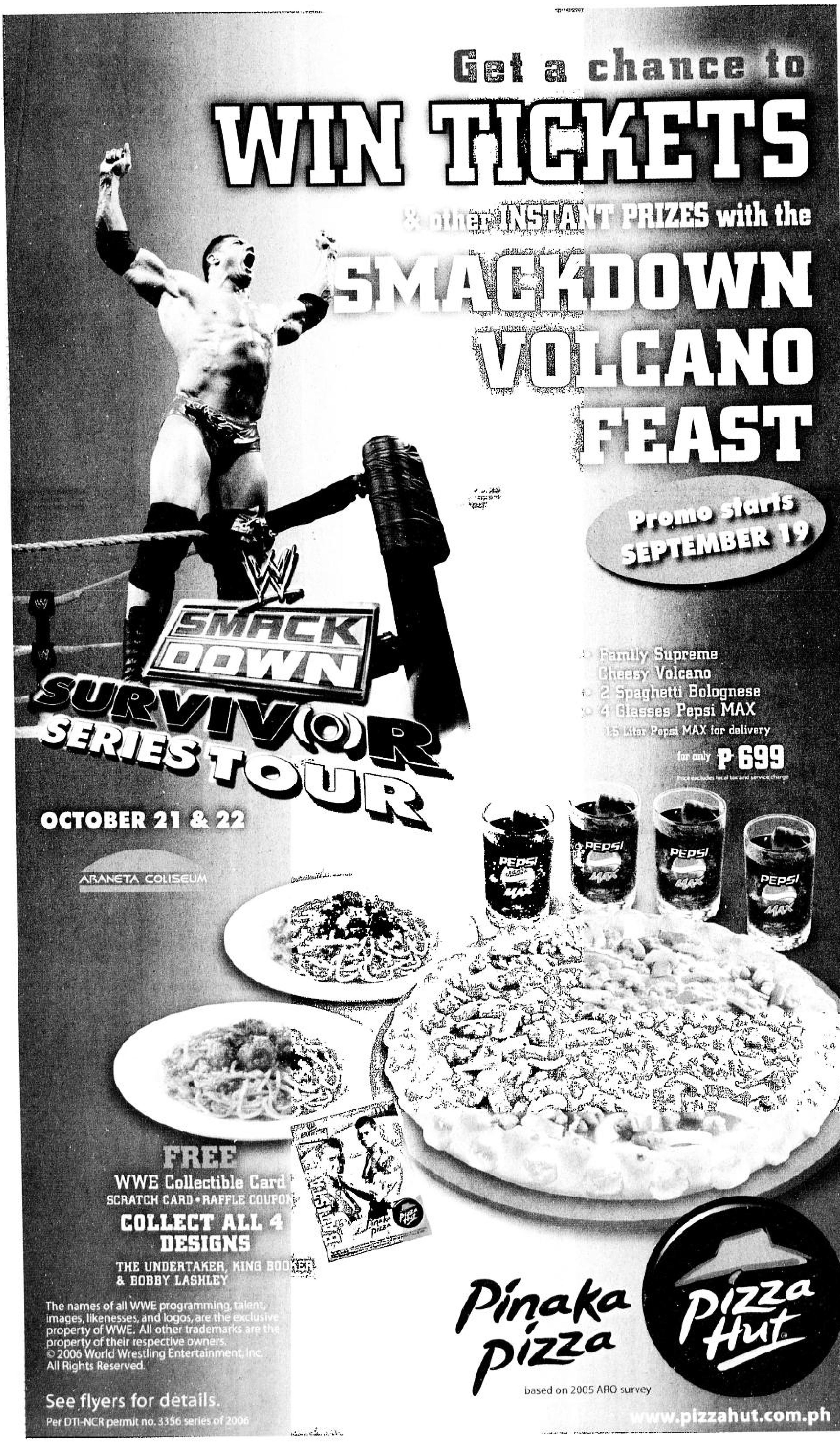

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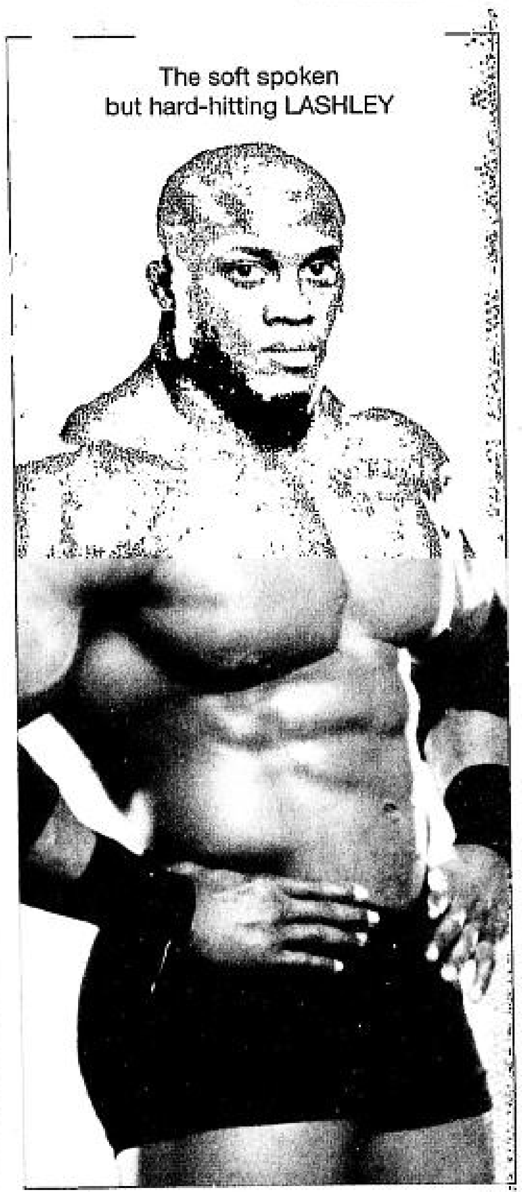

The soft spoken
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To join, simply get your favorite pizzas at participating Pizza Hut restaurants from August 30 to September 8 and get a free promo poster for a minimum P800 single purchase. Bring this poster to any of the four prime malls Batista is scheduled to visit - the SM Mall of Asia, Ali Mall, New Farmer's Plaza, and Gateway Mall - and be among the first 100 customers who will be accommodated in the meet-and-greet in each location. Sept. 8 will be at SM Mall of Asia (1:30PM) and Ali Mall (3:30PM). Sept. 9 will be at Farmer's Plaza (12 NN) and Gateway Mall (1:30 PM).

You can avail of this exclusive offer at Pizza Hut Bistros in Gateway Mall and SM Mall of Asia, and at Pizza Hut Farmer's Plaza, Ali Mall, Bay City, Buendia-Taft, La Salle, Ermita, Las Pinas, Makati Avenue, Makati Cinema Square, and SM North Edsa.

With Pizza Hut's WWE promo, you can meet WWE Superstar Batista during his much-anticipated "homecoming" while enjoying Pizza Hut's great-tasting pizza offerings.

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4 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
5 ETERNITY
6 YOU ARE THE ONE
7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
8 LITTLE MAN
9 CLICK
10 STAY ALIVE

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 WICKER MAN
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 MONSTER HOUSE
7 ETERNITY

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199
1 WICKER MAN
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
5 MONSTER HOUSE
6 RESERVE
7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
8 ETERNITY

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 ETERNITY
4 ETERNITY
5 WICKER MAN
6 YOU, ME AND DUPREE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 RESERVE
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3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 MIAMI VICE

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 ETERNITY
3 MORTUARY
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 ETERNITY
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

ANGELES (045) 892-2348
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 ETERNITY
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 ETERNITY

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 ETERNITY
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 STAY ALIVE
5 SNAKES ON A PLANE
6 MIAMI VICE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 ETERNITY
4 MORTUARY
5 MIAMI VICE
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

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2 ETERNITY
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 MORTUARY

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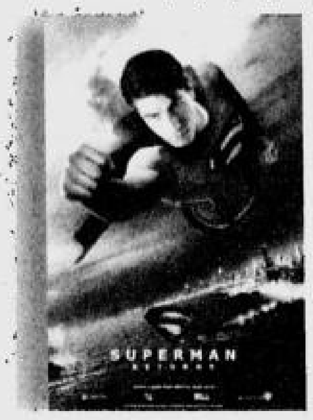

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SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
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11:00AM 7:00 PM
ANT BULLY IN FULL IMAX 3D
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P300 -After 5 pm (Mon- Thurs)
P300 All screenings (Fri- Sun)
SUPERMAN RETURNS
9:00PM Admission Price- P350
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA?
SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
3 WICKER MAN
4 MONSTER HOUSE
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 SARONG BANGGI
PREMIERE CINEMA
ETERNITY
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
WICKER MAN
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
YOU, ME AND DUPREE
CINEMA 2
DEVIL WEARS PRADA

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 WICKER MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 MONSTER HOUSE
7 WICKER MAN
8 ETERNITY
9 SARONG BANGGI
10 LITTLE MAN
11 SNAKES ON A PLANE
12 YOU, ME AND DUPREE

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 WICKER MAN
2 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 JOSEPH THE DREAMER
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 MONSTER HOUSE
7 SARONG BANGGI
8 SNAKES ON A PLANE
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 ETERNITY
11 LITTLE MAN
12 CLICK

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 SARONG BANGGI
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 CLICK
4 SNAKE ON A PLANE
5 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
6 ETERNITY
7 WICKER MAN
8 MONSTER HOUSE
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 STAY ALIVE
11 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12 LITTLE MAN

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
2 WICKER MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MONSTER HOUSE
5 ETERNITY
6 LITTLE MAN
7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
8 SARONG BANGGI
9 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
10 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 WICKER MAN
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 ETERNITY
5 SNAKES ON A PLANE
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 WICKER MAN
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 ETERNITY
5 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE
7 LITTLE MAN
8 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
9 SARONG BANGGI

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 ETERNITY
3 WICKER MAN
4 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 SARONG BANGGI
2 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 MONSTER HOUSE
6 WICKER MAN
7 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
8 CLICK
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 LITTLE MAN
11 STAY ALIVE
12 ETERNITY

SM CITY DASMARIHAS (046)4333201-04
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 ETERNITY
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 ETERNITY

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
WICKER MAN
2 ETERNITY
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

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3 JUST MY LUCK
4 ETERNITY

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 ETERNITY
4 STORMBREAKER

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 LITTLE MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 SNAKES A ON PLANE
5 MONSTER HOUSE
6 ETERNITY
7 MORTUARY
8 STAY ALIVE

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 ETERNITY
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 MIAMI VICE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 ETERNITY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 MIAMI VICE
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 MORTUARY
3 ETERNITY
4 SARONG BANGGI
5 SNAKES A ON PLANE
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 MONTERS HOUSE
4 STAY ALIVE
5 SARONG BANGGI
6 ETERNITY

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 ETERNITY
3 STAY ALIVE
4 STORMBREAKER

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 MIAMI VICE
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 ETERNITY
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 STORMBREAKER
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 STAY ALIVE
5 SARONG BANGGI
6 ETERNITY
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 RESERVED
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 ETERNITY
6 MORTUARY
7 RESERVED
8 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 SARONG BANGGI
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STORMBREAKER
5 ETERNITY
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 ETERNITY
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 AMERICAN DREAMZ

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ROUNDUP

'Invincible'

LOS ANGELES—Mark Wahlberg remained invincible at the box office over the long Labor Day weekend.

Disney's "Invincible," with Wahlberg as a pro football rookie who makes the team in open tryouts, was the No. 1 movie for the second straight weekend.

Estimated ticket sales at US and Canadian theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations, official trackers:

1) "Invincible," $15.2M; 2) "Crank," $13M; 3) "The Wicker Man," $11.7M; 4) "Little Miss Sunshine," $9.7M; 5) "The Illusionist," $8M; 6) "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby," $7.7M; 7) "Barnyard: The Original Party Animals," $6.4M; 8) "Accepted," $5.9M; 9) "World Trade Center," $5.8M; 10) "Step Up," $5.5M. *AP*

Musically just . . .

From page E8

front row, cameras in tow.

Musically, it was a so-so affair. That Westlife holds the record as the only group in UK pop chart history to have seven straight No. 1 singles didn't impress one looking to understand how these Irish superstars gained worldwide acclaim.

For the Big Dome gig, the best thing Kian Egan, Mark Feehily, Shane Fila and Nicky Byrne could do was slip into colorful costumes to match the most exciting part of the repertoire—covers of Billy Joel's "Uptown Girl," Robert Palmer's "Addicted to Love" and an original that ironically sampled the music of Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean."

That, aside from yet another batch of covers like Terry Jacks' "Seasons in the Sun" and Barry Manilow's "Mandy," which helped Westlife sell millions of albums.

And who bought these albums? At the Big Dome, they were represented by a cross section of middle-class women, mostly in their '20s and some in their teens, hopelessly in love, it seems, with cute boys singing cute lyrics of songs with titles like "Queen of My Heart" in cute-sounding voices.

There were wild screams, especially when Westlife suddenly switched to a cover of Pussycat Dolls' "Don't Cha." The women hissed at the sight of the guys grinding their hips. Wasn't this how rock 'n' roll exploded with Elvis in the mid-'50s?

Westlife was earlier dubbed "Fab Five" (prior to fifth member Bryan McFadden's leaving the group in 2004), obviously an allusion to the Beatles' "Fab Four" tag.

Then again, to be called the "Irish Fab Five" at the time was just hype. People should never have fallen for it.

Westlife is just an updated version of Boyzone and Backstreet Boys. Only, the choreography has become sloppy. Hopefully, this boy-band thing would finally be put to rest.

KID FIT

Cartoon faves

CARTOON NETWORK features the famous cat-and-mouse duo Tom and Jerry in "Mousetrap Weekend" on Sept. 16 and 17, 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

This all-new series of hilarious shorts in "Tom & Jerry Tales" premieres Sept. 17, then airs weekends at 3:30 p.m. "Tom & Jerry: The Movie" is scheduled Sept. 16, 1:30 p.m.; "Tom & Jerry and the Magic Ring" on Sept. 17, 1:30 p.m.

Airing weekdays at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. are the adventures of Katie, Dylan and their cute little love fairies on "Mirumo De Pon."

Samba frenzy

Television celebrities Basty Alcances and Madeline Yu are caught in the catchy "Samba! Samba!" dance frenzy inspired by the hit song of the same title by the Brazilian all-kids group Los Niños de Samba.

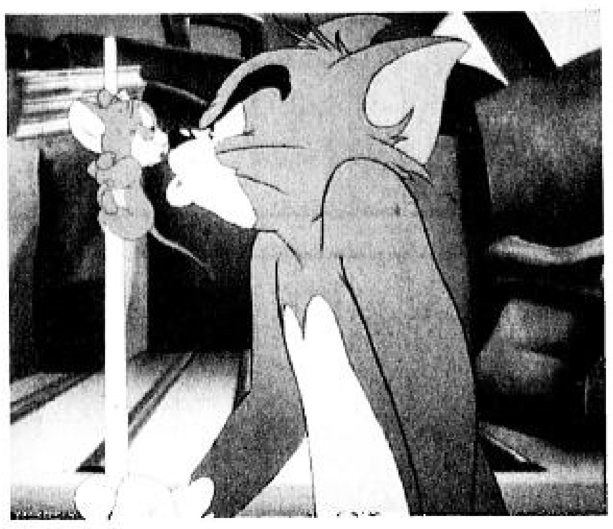
Seven-year-old Basty, a finalist in the 2004 "Star Circle Kid Quest," is a mainstay of ABS-CBN sitcom "Going Bulilit." Madeline is a talent of the GMA 7 Artist Center and has appeared in the series "LoveStruck" and "Sugo."

The "Samba! Samba!" song and music video can be downloaded for free at www.sambasamba.com.ph or www.mysambasamba.com.

New episodes

Playhouse Disney Channel presents all-new episodes of its favorite shows every Saturday of September.

"Clifford's Puppy Days" with the little red dog and interesting discoveries about the world airs at 9:30 a.m. At 5 p.m., "Higglytown Heroes" features Higglytown's heroes—the postman, the fireman and the bus driver. "JoJo's Circus" follows at 6:30 p.m.



SHOW TIME

ISAY and Robert Seña

Isay, Robert opens show at Teatrino

"Love You, Hate You, Love You," a musical/comedy show conceptualized and performed by singing couple Isay Alvarez and Robert Seña, kicks off its third run 8:30 tonight at the Teatrino (Promenade, Greenhills).

Repeat dates are Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 12, 19, 26 and Nov. 3.

Call 721-6726 / 721-0635, or (0906) 8613000.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 2:20,4:40,7:00,9:20	MONSTER HOUSE G 12:00,2:00,4:05, 6:10,8:15	YOU ME AND DUPREE PG13 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30
WICKER MAN PG13 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25	YOU ARE THE ONE PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 1:00,3:20,5:40, 8:00,10:20

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440/41

SHANG CINEPLEX
① MONSTER HOUSE MTRCB GP 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
② YOU, ME & DUPREE MTRCB PG-13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
③ THE WICKER MAN MTRCB R-13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
④ DEVIL WEARS PRADA MTRCB PG-13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE YOU ARE THE ONE MTRCB PG-13 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
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On Mondays and Tuesdays, starting August 14, enjoy special prices of P99.00 for Cinemas 1-4.
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3 060[illegible] Series of 2006
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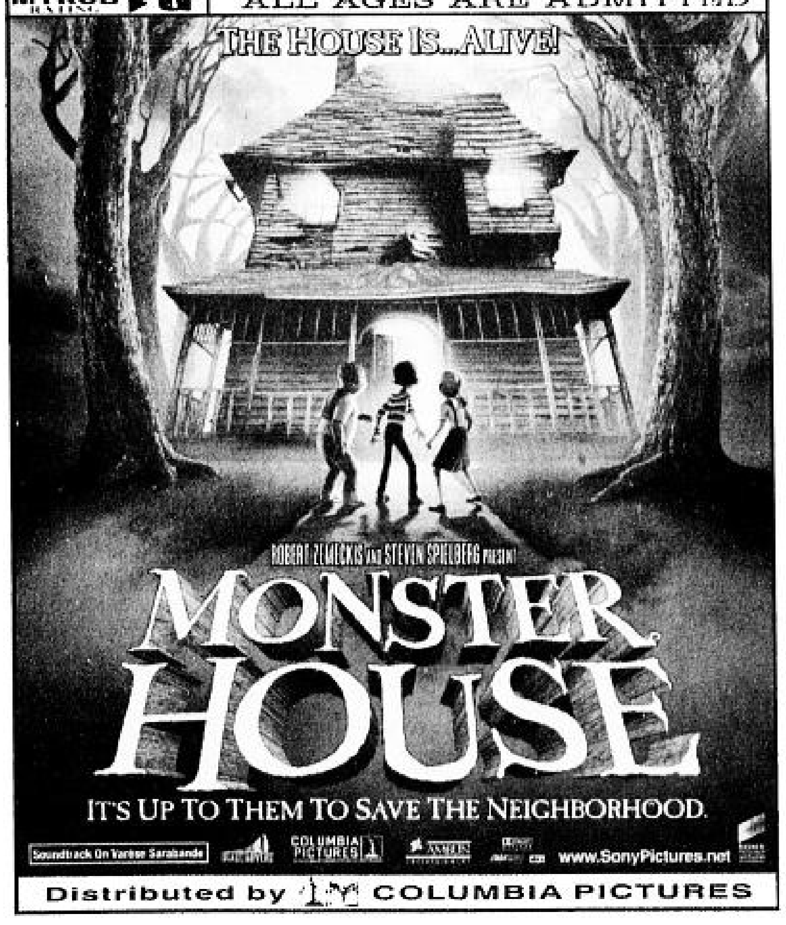

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CINEMA 2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 10:50, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10 PG-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX
PROMENADE
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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 THE WICKER MAN 10:50, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10 PG-13
CINEMA 4 MONSTER HOUSE 10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10 GP
CINEMA 5 YOU, ME & DUPREE 10:30, 12:45, 3:05, 5:25, 7:45, 10:10 PG-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

SEPT. 14, 2006	DANITA PANER	8:00PM
SEPT. 15 & 16, 2006	ERIK SANTOS & RUFFA MAE QUINTO	8:00PM

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY	CERRUDO ... CLASSICO	8:00PM
Sept. 7,14,21,28,2006	ISAY ALVAREZ & ROBERT PENA FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC.116	8:00PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

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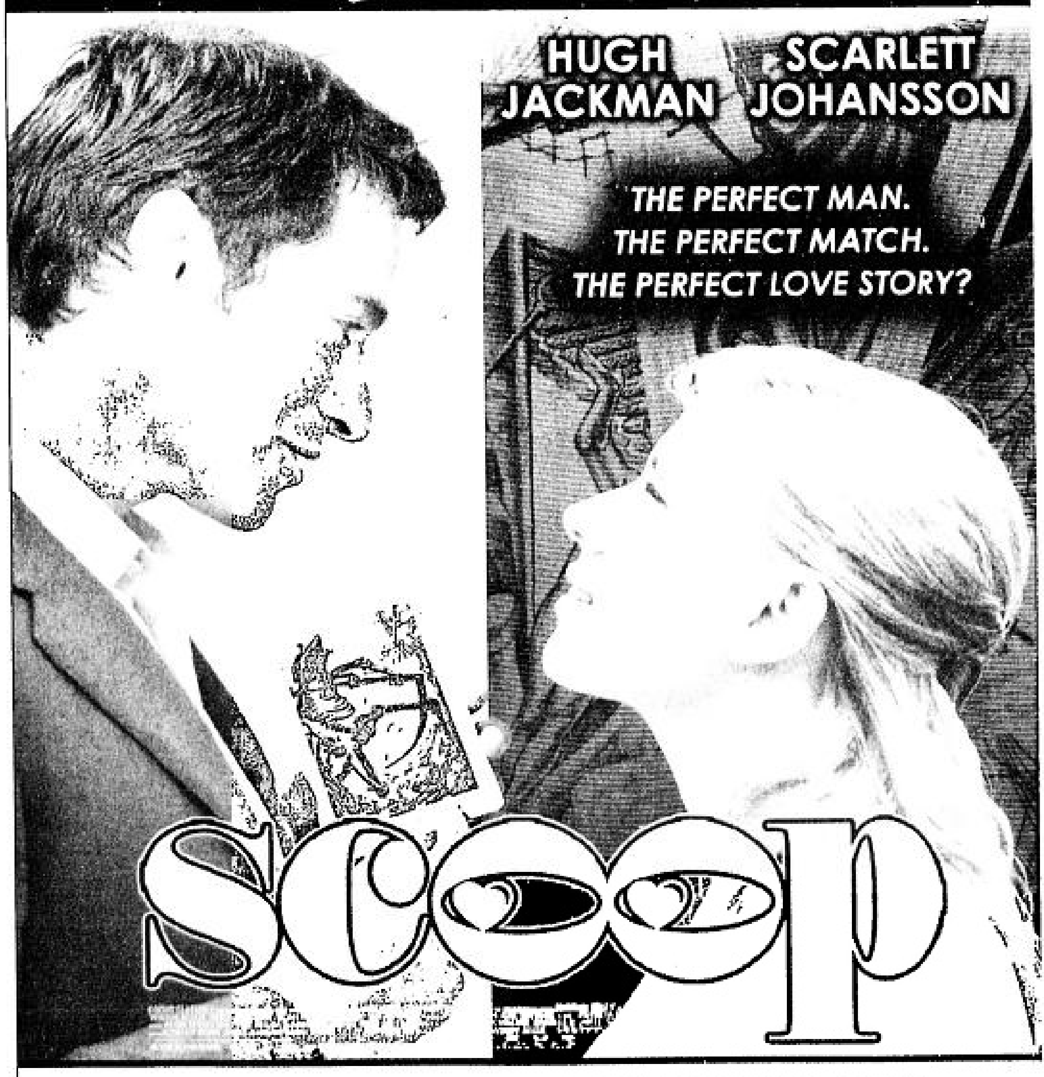

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Mick LaSalle, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
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Rex Reed, NEW YORK OBSERVER
"THERE ARE PLENTY OF OLD-SCHOOL MURDER-MYSTERY MOMENTS TO KEEP YOU GUESSING."
Lisa Kennedy, DENVER POST

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3 (DOLBY) THE WICKER MAN
4 (DOLBY) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
PREMIERE
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Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 THE WICKER MAN
3 YOUR AR THE ONE
4 ETERNITY

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160
3 ETERNITY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE WICKER MAN
5 MONSTER HOUSE

metropolis star cinema
www.clicktheaters.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 ETERNITY
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOUR AR THE ONE
4 THE WICKER MAN

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1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 ETERNITY

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 ETERNITY
2 YOUR AR THE ONE
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DTS) LITTLE MAN
2 (DTS) MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 (DTS) CLICK
4 (GOLD DTS) MONSTER HOUSE
5 (GOLD DOLBY) YOU, ME & DUPREE
6 (GOLD DTS) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
7 (GOLD DOLBY) THE WICKER MAN
8 SNAKE ON A PLANE
9 ETERNITY
10 YOU ARE THE ONE

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 5341927
1 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE
2 (DOLBY) ETERNITY
3 (DOLBY) MONSTER HOUSE
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) YOU, ME & DUPREE
2 THE WICKER MAN
3 ETERNITY
4 MONSTER HOUSE
5 YOU ARE THE ONE

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ETERNITY
2 MIAMI VICE
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 ETERNITY
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)-(4449346)
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 THE BREAK UP

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (DTS) MONSTER HOUSE
4 ETERNITY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 ETERNITY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) YOU, ME & DUPREE
2 (DOLBY) MONSTER HOUSE
3 (DOLBY) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 (DOLBY) THE WICKER MAN

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Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 ETERNITY
2 (DTS) MONSTER HOUSE
3 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
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2 (DOLBY) MONSTER HOUSE
3 (DTS) YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MIAMI VICE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
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2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (DOLBY) MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
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1 MONSTER HOUSE
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Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
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3 MAPANUKSO
4 (DTS) BUTTERFLY EFFECT

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1 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE
2 CHAOS
3 (DTS) ETERNITY
4 KATAWAN KO ANG LANGIT
5 MONSTER HOUSE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 ETERNITY
3 MONTUARY
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
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ENTERTAINMENT

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Bakekang not sitting pretty for the role

SUNSHINE Dizon reprises famous 'komiks' role.

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

IN GMA 7's NEWEST prime time drama "Bakekang" (starting Sept. 11), an unlikely heroine will emerge to present a riveting story of an ugly woman's rise from a sorry state of ridicule to the pedestal of triumph and fame. Created by comics novelist and director **Carlo J. Caparas**, "Bakekang" was serialized in Bondying *komiks* and made into a movie in 1978 with **Nora Aunor** playing the title role.

Now reprising the character of the ugly but feisty Bakekang is versatile young actress **Sunshine Dizon**. Her sunshiny mood is dampened because of nasty talks that she has been unprofessional during tapings. "It's not true that I walked out. I have a serious back problem so when I get an attack, *di ko na talaga kaya mag*-taping. *Mahirap naman pilitin ko katawan ko*. But I'm not complaining. It's sad that the show hasn't aired yet and some people are trying to pull me down already. But like Bakekang, I'm not one to give up."

She has no qualms about turning into an ugly duckling for the much-coveted role. "I've never been conscious of my looks." Her non-show biz BF teases her that she should make an extra effort to get dolled up when they go out because people might think she really looks like Bakekang already. But for her, the biggest compliment is to be called Bakekang wherever she goes. That would mean that she has succeeded in being pretty ugly and she's not sitting pretty for the role.

Filipino TV first

The *Kapamilya* Network schedules another Filipino TV first this month when its newest *teleserye* "Crazy For You" makes a simultaneous worldwide premiere on ABS-CBN and all TFC channels at 9:30 p.m. on Sept. 11. It is an appropriate choice for the breakthrough broadcast, as it is a tribute to the Pinoy OFW.

The series is topbilled by **Luis Manzano** and **Toni Gonzaga** who play a Filipino student and a Filipina OFW, respectively, who cross paths and fall in love in Spain. But in real life, they are reluctant lovers. Luis is very vocal about his admiration for Toni ever since. "From the first time I saw Toni on FHM, I already asked the fotog who's a friend of mine to introduce me to her."

Toni is all praises for Luis. "I've known him way before I met Sam. Luis is someone I can depend on for anything anytime. Our friendship has matured. With Sam, we are still getting to know each other. *Marami kaming* scenes *ni* Luis *na baka pagselosan ni* Sam (giggles). I'm neither confirming nor denying anything about Sam and me. But I must say that he has no edge over Luis. *Malalim na pinagsamahan namin ni* Luis." No doubt Luis and Toni are crazy for each other. It shows even when it's not show time.

For feedback, e-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com

'Direk' Mark is a Regal baby

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

YOUNG FILMMAKER Mark Reyes describes his relationship with his producer, Lily Monteverde of Regal Films, in filial terms: "Mother Lily calls me her baby."

Reyes told INQUIRER Entertainment that Monteverde had spoiled him on the set of his latest movie, "Eternity," starring Dingdong Dantes, Iza Calzado, Mark Herras and Jennylyn Mercado.

"She said yes to all my requests," he said, "like shooting in Vigan, including a one-day reshoot because I wasn't happy with a sequence."

He said that was the reason that the movie's opening was moved back a week, avoiding a head-on collision with Star Cinema's "You Are the One."

"I also got new musical scorers Allan Feliciano and Arnold Buena, so we couldn't meet the Aug. 30 playdate," Reyes added.

Green light

Monteverde also green-lit the 37-year-old filmmaker's proposals for computer-generated effects, courtesy of Ignite Media.

"These were only cosmetic effects—adding clouds in the sky and erasing electric wires in the period scenes. On the computer, we deleted an old building in the Intramuros scene and repainted another edifice in Vigan."

Shooting in Ilocos Sur's colonial town, a Unesco World Heritage Site, was both "fulfilling and harrowing," Reyes said.

"Typhoon Lolita caught up with us. We were stranded there for two days. In some scenes, [you'll see] that wasn't a wind machine; that was *the* storm," he recounted.

Ciudad Fernandina provided a picturesque backdrop for the Spanish-era scenes.

"We couldn't build sets like these. It would've been expensive. We shot in the grotto in Narvacan where FPJ's 'Alupihang Dagat' was filmed. We worked on the cobbled Crisologo Street and in Santa Maria Church."

Reyes also shot other Spanish-era scenes in Intramuros, and in Bulacan and Pangasinan.

Still, the question begs to be answered: What makes "Eternity" different from "Moments of Love," Reyes' most recent movie which also top-billed Dantes and Calzado?

DINGDONG Dantes and director Mark Reyes, right, on the set of "Eternity" in Vigan.

"This film is about reincarnation; the earlier one is about lovers separated by time," he explained.

He said that he had always wanted to cast Iza in a period piece. "I knew she'd look beautiful in a 19th-century costume."

He commented that "period romance dramas" like "Moments" and "Eternity" could cross over abroad.

"GMA Films brought 'Moments' to the Hong Kong Film Market. I heard it's also bound for Korea," he said.

Reyes is bullish about RP films' prospects abroad: "If Korean telenovelas could become hits in the country, our films should also try to penetrate foreign markets. 'Eternity' is very marketable abroad because it deals with our history. We can't compete with Hollywood when it comes to sci-fi and fantasy movies; so we should do inherently Pinoy stories instead."

Reyes is following up "Eternity" with his sixth feature, the GMA Films romantic comedy, "Till I Met You," headlined by Robin Padilla and Regine Velasquez.

New talents score points

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

KUDOS TO STAR CINEMA FOR GIVING NEW director **Cathy Garcia-Molina** and young leads **Sam Milby** and **Toni Gonzaga** a break in its latest romantic comedy, "You Are the One."

The three newcomers generally do well in the movie, so the studio's gamble on them has paid off at least in terms of relative quality.

In the lighthearted film, Toni plays a census office employee whose petition for a visa to the United States to visit her ailing mother is turned down by a vice consul (Sam) at the US Embassy.

Naturally, she hates him to bits, so when it's his turn to ask for a favor (to track down the Filipino parents of his "friend," who was adopted by an American couple decades ago), she makes things really tough for him, before she decides to give him a helping hand.

The film's "love-hate" format is an old as the movie hills, but its script adds details that make it more interesting and significant:

It turns out that it's Sam himself who's been adopted and is looking for his real parents in order to fill the huge hole in his heart of hearts.

And Toni has to grapple with her own huge psychological problem—sibling envy, because her older sister (**Jodi Santamaria**) is deemed the "perfect" child in the family.

Sam's liability

These elaborations are OK, but the way they are handled and resolved could certainly stand improvement. It's clumsy and over-declarative, because the resolution comes in the form of "speeches" in which each lead character's problem is talked "to death" about.

This film's writers and director should remind themselves that, in the movies as well as in life, problems can't be solved and hurts can't be salved simply by talking about them.

The most dynamic resolution should come in the form of action. That's more difficult to pull off, but it's also much more realistic and rewarding.

On point of performance, Milby starts off with a huge liability: Instead of first learning to speak Filipino, he essays yet another "warsh-warsh" *balikbayan* role with all of its attendant cliches, thus threatening to bore us to perdition.

But the actor does possess a measure of interiority and believability that enables him to partially surmount the irritating predictability of his Fil-Am role, so his performance isn't a total caution, and is sometimes even moving.

Toni's problem

For her part, Gonzaga's problem is the fact that her leading man is better-looking than she is. And she's also a rather nervous and twitchy performer, acting pert and sassy much too relentlessly.

But, like Milby, she also has heart and intelligence, and these plus points make some of her scenes affecting.

"Speeches" and twitches aside, Gonzaga's character comes through as a caring person who also deserves viewers' attention and empathy, and that's a pleasant surprise to encounter in "just" a romantic-comedy romp like this.

As for director Garcia-Molina, her work here commands interest because it's relatively focused, and evinces intimations of both range and depth.

We'll have to wait for a more substantial showcase to affirm or contradict this impression, but the initial word on the director's second full-length feature is positive.

That's all to the good, and we trust that Star Cinema will continue to give breaks to new filmmakers and actors in movie seasons to come.

'Paco Park Presents'

September offerings on "Paco Park Presents" Fridays at 6 p.m. at the historic park in San Marcelino, Manila: Sept. 8, pianist Nannah Lynn Tan performs is featured. Sept. 15, PWU School of Music students perform best-loved pieces for vocal and instrumental. Sept. 24, St. Paul University Manila's talented students of guitar and sax play classical and Filipino music. Sept. 29, Far Eastern University Chorale.

Cogie helps Lovi deal with bad-press week

Text and photo by Nini Valera

LOVI POE HAD COGIE DOMINGO TO CHEER her up when a deluge of bad publicity hit her last week after INQUIRER Entertainment published a story on her memories of her father, the late actor and National Artist for Film Fernando Poe Jr.

"Cogie made me laugh," she told INQUIRER during an exclusive interview. "He told me to be strong and to be prepared [for negative press]."

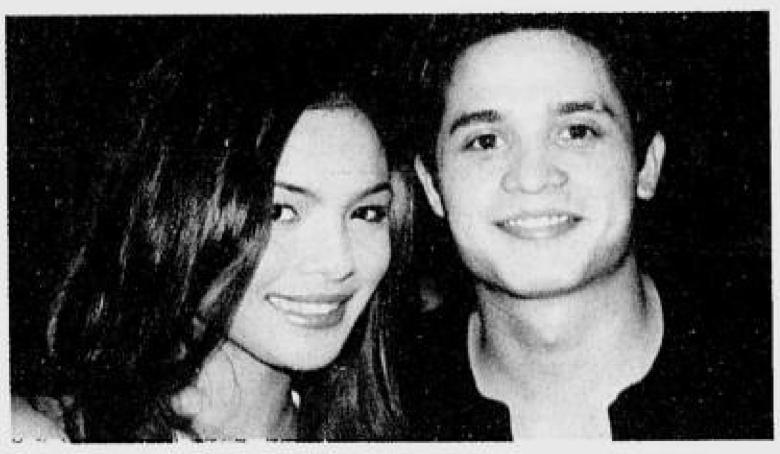
Following the INQUIRER story, other entertainment writers had questioned Lovi's recollection.

"I didn't realize that saying FPJ was a good father would turn out to be bad," said Lovi. "I have nothing against these writers. They're just doing their jobs. But now I'd rather [avoid the subject]."

She continued: "I'm going through a lot of things right now, but I think these are molding me for the future, and I'm learning a lot."

Not quitting

Not once did she consider quitting on her show biz dreams.



GMA 7's newest love team: Lovi and Cogie Domingo star in "Love 2 Love."

Lovi insisted, "When I'm committed to something, I don't give up. I just vent. Afterwards, game *na*."

She refused to answer questions about how her mother, former model Rowena Moran, reacted to the intrigues.

"I hope you understand. I'm being very careful about what I say from now on," said Lovi. But she didn't mind talking about her career.

"I'm really a singer," she said. "That was the plan, although I knew that there was always the possibility that I might get into acting. So when I was offered this role in 'Love 2 Love' by GMA 7 and told that it was a musical, I agreed to do it."

Tailor-made

In the teen-oriented drama, Lovi is cast in the lead with Cogie in the final chapter, 'Jass Got Lucky." The show seems tailor-made for her since she gets to sing and dance and act. The tapings also keep her in the company of Cogie, whom she hangs out with after work.

"No, it's not a dating thing," said Cogie. "We just hang out, watch movies, you know. Usually, it's in Starbucks. We're always chaperoned."

Lovi maintained that she was not yet allowed to have a boyfriend.

"Maybe, when I'm 27," she said. "Right now, Cogie and I are enjoying each other's company and I don't want to blow it."

She is only 17, turning 18 on Feb. 11 next year.

"I've always wanted a big debut [party]," she admitted, "but I realize that it's just for one night and it might not be worth it. I'm planning this charity event. Everyday *naman* is like my birthday because my dream is coming true. I'd rather make other people happy on my birthday."

Lovi has also been cast to play Crystal in the series "Bakekang," which starts airing on GMA 7 next month.

Musically just so-so

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

REVIEW

VISUALLY, IT WAS A SPECTACLE: FOUR good-looking Caucasians turning on the charm offensive in all-white outfits; in the background a band of four in all-black attire.

Monday night, the Manila leg of Westlife's Asian concert tour pulled in a fair amount of screaming females, not enough to fill up the Araneta Coliseum but causing a gleeful ruckus as the overzealous raced from back to

MUSICALLY/ E6

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG13 EXTREME CAUTION IS ADVISED FOR ADULTS TO ADVISE THE YOUNG AUDIENCE AGAINST THE NEGATIVE VALUES OF THE SECT THAT IS PORTRAYED IN THE MOVIE.

Be careful what you search for.
NICOLAS CAGE
THE WICKER MAN
Released through [illegible] Entertainment Corporation
DOLBY DIGITAL IN SELECTED THEATRES
Millennium
SATURN FILMS

METRO / A17

Mike Arroyo files P32-M
libel suits vs Tulfo brothers, editors of INQUIRER, Bandera

SPORTS / A21

7 RP cue masters
advance, assured of $25,000 each

BUSINESS / B1

Forex reserves
hit all-time high of $21.4 billion

SPORTS / A21

Juvic Pagunsan
shares early lead in $3-M Singapore Open

WORLD / A20

Bush admits
secret CIA prisons

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Recruitment firm hits back at 28 RP nurses

By Jerome Aning

A PHILIPPINE-BASED RECRUITMENT AGENCY has turned the tables on 28 Filipino nurses who have reportedly complained that they did not receive the pay and other benefits it had promised them for jobs in New York.

In a statement sent by e-mail to the INQUIRER,

RECRUITMENT/ A6

2/3 of New Yorkers fear new attack

NEW YORK—FIVE YEARS AFTER THE SEPT. 11 attacks, two-thirds of New Yorkers are still "very concerned" about another attack on their city, a level of apprehension only slightly reduced from the fall of 2001, according to the latest New York Times/CBS News polls of the nation and New York City.

Nearly a third of New Yorkers said they were thinking about Sept. 11 every day. About the same number said they had not gone back to pre-Sept. 11 routines and that they were still dealing with changes caused by the attacks.

2/3 OF NEW YORKERS A6

FOUR days after 9/11, thick smoke still envelops the lower Manhattan skyline in this photo taken at first light from Jersey City with the Statue of Liberty in the foreground. AP FILE PHOTO

Bloody Thursday morn

Ex-gov, leftist, poll official shot dead

By Jolene Bolambot, Jhunnex Napallacan and Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

ASSASSINS STRUCK IN SEPARATE PLACES EARLY YESTERDAY morning, killing a former governor, a leftist leader and a Commission on Elections official.

Former Biliran Gov. Danilo Parilla was gunned down shortly before 6 a.m. while disembarking with his family from an interisland vessel in Cebu City. At 7:25 a.m., in neighboring Bohol, Bayan Muna provincial head Victor Olayvar was shot dead on a bridge by two men on a motorcycle in Danao town.

In Apayao, Comelec provincial supervisor Julius Angadol was killed at 7:30 a.m. while he was on his way to his office in Luna town.

Parilla, 52, was lining up with his wife and three children and other passengers to disembark from the MV Cagayan Princess when he was shot in the head at close range with a .45-cal. pistol by a lone assailant, police said. The ship left his hometown of Naval in Biliran on Wednesday night and arrived at Pier 4 in Cebu City at 5 a.m.

Parilla was declared dead at 7:20 a.m. at the Chong Hua Hospital's emergency room.

Police arrested a suspect identified as Eugenio Corpin, 56, a former bodyguard of incumbent Biliran Gov. Rogelio Espina, after several bystanders ganged up on him and mauled him.

"I did not shoot him. It was my friend Norbing. He defended me because Parilla mauled me at the Naval pier last Saturday," Corpin said in Cebuano.

Police were looking at a personal grudge as the motive because of the reported public altercation between Parilla and Corpin at the Naval Barbeque Plaza.

Olayvar, 46, president of Bayan Muna-Bohol and chair of the farmers' group Hugpong sa Mag-uumang Bul-anon (Humabol), was attacked on Caban Bridge in Barangay Cantubod, Danao, Bohol, police said.

Senior Supt. Arturo Evangelista, provincial police director, said the victim was riding on a *habal-habal* (motorcy-

BLOODY/ A4

Power firm bans hunting of giant bats

By Bobby Labalan
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SORSOGON CITY—EFFORTS ARE under way to save the dwindling number of giant bats that have turned the sprawling Bac-Man geothermal field here into a major tourist attraction.

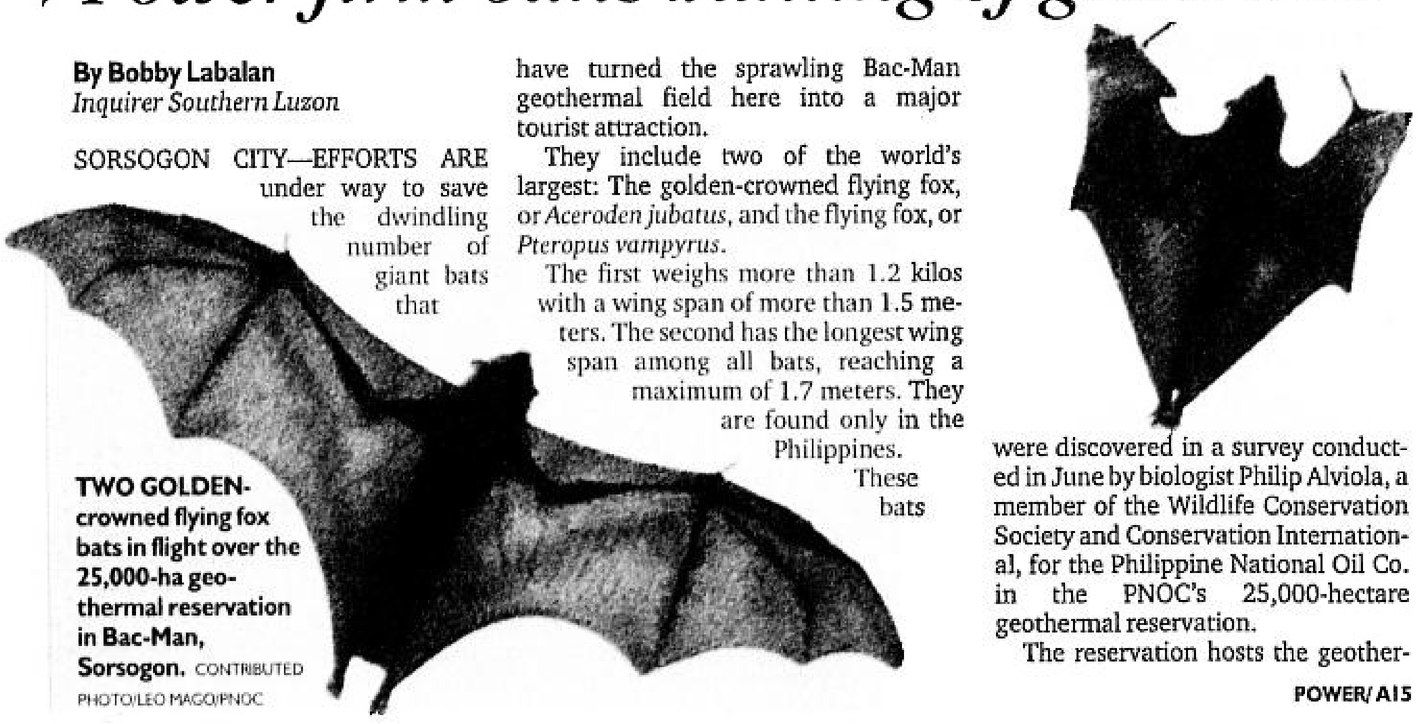
They include two of the world's largest: The golden-crowned flying fox, or *Aceroden jubatus*, and the flying fox, or *Pteropus vampyrus*.

The first weighs more than 1.2 kilos with a wing span of more than 1.5 meters. The second has the longest wing span among all bats, reaching a maximum of 1.7 meters. They are found only in the Philippines.

These bats were discovered in a survey conducted in June by biologist Philip Alviola, a member of the Wildlife Conservation Society and Conservation International, for the Philippine National Oil Co. in the PNOC's 25,000-hectare geothermal reservation.

The reservation hosts the geother-

POWER/ A15



TWO GOLDEN-crowned flying fox bats in flight over the 25,000-ha geothermal reservation in Bac-Man, Sorsogon. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/LEO MAGO/PNOC

2 senators urge GMA to deal with security lapses at airport

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Nikko Dizon

SENATORS MAR ROXAS AND RODOLFO Biazon yesterday called on the government to address lapses in airport security that allowed a counterterrorism expert on a test mission to bring bomb components onto two commercial flights.

On Wednesday, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita announced that criminal proceedings would be instituted against the man for conducting the experiment purportedly without official sanction and thereby tarnishing the integrity of Philippine security before the international community.

"Without prejudice to the Palace decision to file charges against this terror expert, it still doesn't solve the lapses that enabled this man to slip through with bomb-making materials," Roxas said in a statement.

Roxas said the pride and egos of security officials should take second place to a frank assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of existing security procedures in the country's ports of entry.

"What would work more in our favor, insofar as the country's international image is concerned, are concrete and urgent steps to show that we took this information seriously and are now taking specific steps to upgrade our defense and security systems," Roxas said.

Biazon said he supported the filing of charges against Samson Macariola, who

2 SENATORS/ A8

BRITISH Prime Minister Tony Blair: Ta-ta to No. 10 Downing Street, and all that. AFP

Blair vows to quit within one year to quiet critics

LONDON—PRIME MINISTER TONY Blair promised Thursday to resign within a year, hoping to appease critics in his governing Labour Party who were calling for his departure by revealing a time frame he had badly wanted to keep private.

"I would have preferred to do this in my own way," Blair said, but conceded that he'd been forced to act by a week of public turmoil in the party. He refused to set a specific departure date, but said the annual Labour Party conference this month would be his last. Next year's conference is scheduled for September 2007.

"The precise timetable has to be left to me and has to be done in the proper way," he said.

The prime minister, who once commanded Labour with an unassailable authority, now appears to be at the mercy of demands from its restive lawmakers. It was not immediately clear whether his new exit strategy will be detailed and speedy enough to satisfy them.

Labour loyalists urging Blair to leave

BLAIR VOWS/ A15

Skipper clueless on what caused hole in tanker

By Leila B. Salaverria

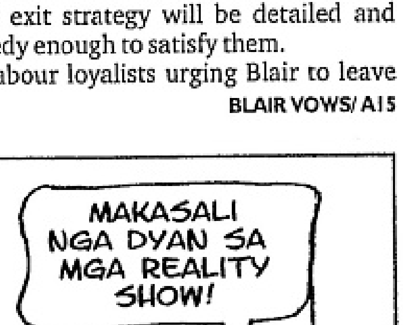
THE CAPTAIN AND A CREW MEMBER OF the MT Solar 1 yesterday told the Special Board of Marine Inquiry (SBMI) they did not know what caused the hole on the port side of the tanker that sank off Guimaras Island and caused the worst oil spill in the country's history.

The triangular hole was seen on a video taken by a remote-operated vehicle (ROV) sent down by experts aboard the Japanese research vessel MT Shinsei Maru last week to look at the tanker that went down Aug. 11 in choppy waters carrying more than 2 million liters of bunker fuel oil.

Testimony before the board indicated that the puncture in the Solar I's bow may have been caused by a container van that fell off a cargo ship.

"I didn't feel anything," said Capt. Norberto Aguro. "I would probably have felt it during good weather, but if there was bad weather, it might feel like you

SKIPPER/ A8



MAKASALI NGA DYAN SA MGA REALITY SHOW!

If you're in love with yourself, you can be a celebrity

LOS ANGELES—IN CASE ANYONE needed proof, a new study supports the widely held perception: Celebrities are more in love with themselves than the average person.

That was the conclusion drawn by Drew Pinsky and S. Mark Young of the University of Southern California, whose study of 200 celebrities will appear in the Journal of Research in Personality.

It is not the entertainment indus-

IF YOU'RE/ A4